

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

CURRENT AFFAIRS – SEPTEMBER 2019

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Two new species of marine eel were discovered and documented in August this year by Estuarine Biology Regional Centre (EBRC) of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) at Gopalpur-on-sea in Odisha.
 - They are: 'Gymnothorax andamanensis' and 'Gymnothorax smithi'
- ❖ "Obama: The Call of History" a book written by Peter Baker, the Chief White House Correspondent for The New York Times has been released. It chronicles the Presidential years of Obama.
- ❖ In the ongoing ISSF Shooting World Cup, Abhishek Varma and Saurabh Chaudhary have won gold and bronze respectively in the 10m Air Pistol event.
- ❖ The 10th edition of "The La Ultra-the High" marathon was conducted in Ladakh in 55, 111, 222, 333, 555 kms categories. It is one of the toughest marathons in the world due to extreme weather and altitude.
- ❖ The entire month of September 2019 is being celebrated as the Rashtriya Poshan Maah. This year the theme is "Complementary Feeding".
- ❖ The 8th edition of joint military exercise titled Shaheen VIII has started between the air forces of China and Pakistan in Chinese city of Holton. Holton is closer to the Indian border near Ladakh.
- ❖ Wing Commander Shalija Dhami has scripted history by becoming India's first female officer of the Indian Air Force to become the Flight Commander of a flying unit.
 - She took over as flight commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ A Three-day International Snack Festival was organised by Culture Language Indian Connection in Hyderabad.
- ❖ A book titled "India's Lost Frontier - The story of Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan" written by Raghvendra Singh was released.
- ❖ Union government has put restrictions on the import of Agarbatti and other similar products from China and Vietnam.
 - The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has ordered that importers of these goods require a licence from the government.
- ❖ India's Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora assumed Chairmanship of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) for the term 2019-21. India has taken over the AWEB Chair from Romania for a two-year period.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Garvi Gujarat', the second state bhawan of the Gujarat government in the national capital New Delhi.



- This is the 'first eco-friendly' state Bhawan in national capital.
- ❖ About 70 hatchlings of the rare Black Softshell and Indian Softshell turtles bred in the ponds of two temples in Assam were released by in the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam.
 - Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is often called 'Mini Kaziranga' because of similar landscape and a sizeable population of the one-horned rhino.
- ❖ Ashok Leyland has become 1st Indian Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to meet BS-VI emission norms across its entire range of heavy-duty trucks.
 - It has received compliance certificates from the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI).
- ❖ Reliance Power has signed a partnership agreement with Japanese energy major Japan's Energy for a New Era (JERA). They will jointly set up 750-megawatt gas-based combined cycle power project at Meghnaghat, Bangladesh.
- ❖ Rishabh Pant became fastest Indian wicket-keeper to claim 50 dismissals in Test cricket in 11 matches. He broke previous record (16) held by MS Dhoni for India.
 - Kraigg Brathwaite of West Indies team was his 50th wicket.
- ❖ Five railway stations in Tamilnadu under Salem Railway Division – Salem, Karur, Erode, Tiruppur and Mettupalayam have received ISO 14001:2015 certification for their environment management systems and performance.
- ❖ CBI Director Rishi Kumar Shukla inaugurated the 1st National Conference on Cyber Crime Investigation and Cyber Forensics at CBI Headquarters in New Delhi.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution has announced a 'blanket ban on all types of single use plastic products' in various departments of Ministry and all its Public Sector Units including Food Corporation of India starting from 15 September 2019.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the "Report of the Task Force on the Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans" for comments. It was headed by TN Manoharan, Chairman of Canara Bank.
- ❖ US President Donald Trump has nominated Indian-American Shireen Mathews as a judge of the US District Court for the Southern District of California.
 - Unlike India, Article III of US Constitution says "judges hold their office during good behaviour". They have a lifetime appointment, except under very limited circumstances.



- ❖ Nobel Laureate from Bangladesh Professor Muhammad Yunus was conferred the 'Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis' award by the Vatican for his contribution towards establishing peace and harmony.
 - The award is a recognition for distinguished work by an individual for promoting peace and dialogue among people.
- ❖ Jharkhand's 17-year-old Komalika Bari became the third Indian to win the gold medal at the World Archery Youth Championships held at Madrid.
 - She is India's second world champion (under-18) after Deepika Kumari who won the title in 2009.
- ❖ Sudha Prasad, a postgraduate zoology teacher at St Joseph of Cluny Matriculation HSS in Neyveli, has been selected for the prestigious Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program.
 - She is one of the three Indians selected for the program to be held in the United States and the only teacher to be selected from Tamilnadu.
- ❖ The Human Resource Development Ministry has awarded the status of Institute of Eminence to the IIT-Madras, the IIT-Kharagpur, Delhi University, Benares Hindu University and the University of Hyderabad,
- ❖ Odisha State Disaster Management Authority has won the IT Excellence Award, 2019 for its innovative conception by using information technology in the field of disaster management.
 - The "SATARK" (System for Assessing, Tracking and Alerting Disaster Risk Information based on Dynamic Risk Knowledge) application has been chosen for the award.
- ❖ Prime Minister Modi will launch the International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York, USA on 23rd September 2019.
 - The international Secretariat office will be set up at New Delhi.
- ❖ The Prime Minister announced that India would be giving a 1 billion dollar worth 'Line of Credit' for the development of the Far East Russia.
 - This is the first time India is giving a line of credit to "a particular region" of a country.
- ❖ For the first time, a Hindu woman has been inducted into Pakistan's Sindh Police Service after passing the provincial competitive examinations. That Hindu Girl Pushpa Kolhi has been posted as the Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI).
 - In January 2019, Suman Pawan Bodani, a Pakistani belonging to the Hindu community was appointed as Civil and judicial magistrate.



- ❖ Asia's first 5th Generation – Virtual Reality based Advanced Driver Training Simulator Centre was launched at the Automobile Association of Southern India Centre (AASI), Chennai.
 - In the first 6 months, AASI will train 200 Ambulance drivers free of cost, under 'Safe Drivers Campaign'.
- ❖ Vijay Kumar Chopra, Chief Editor of the Punjab Kesari Group of newspapers was elected as Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI), the country's premier news agency. He succeeds N. Ravi, Publisher and former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu.
 - Vineet Jain, Managing Director of Bennett, Coleman and Company Limited (BCCL), the publisher of Times of India is the Vice Chairman.
- ❖ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) plans to set up a Centralised Technology Vertical (CTV) at a cost of ₹99 crore to facilitate "real-time information sharing" with investigators across the country.
- ❖ High Commissioner of India to Canada Vikas Swarup inaugurated the India Pavilion at the 44th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2019.
 - TIFF also provides the ideal platform for the global outreach of the Indian cinema and the 50th International Film Festival of India 2019.
- ❖ Robert Gabriel Mugabe, the founding father and former President of Zimbabwe has passed away.
- ❖ Russia has offered India joint design and development of conventional submarines.
 - The proposal includes joint design and development of a conventional submarine with Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) as per the Indian Navy requirements and full access to technology and Intellectual Property Rights.
- ❖ Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh, flagged off the first-ever Mobile Science Exhibition buses for the entire Ladakh Region in Leh.
 - He also launched 25 new Mobile Science Exhibition buses for Aspirational Districts of India.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneer selvam inaugurated a the 14th Government Law College at Upparpatti, Theni.
- ❖ The first Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK) in Tamil Nadu has become operational in Koyambedu in Chennai.



- The ASK is set up by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to extend Aadhaar-related services to the general public.
- ❖ After abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, the Mini Conclave of First Jammu and Kashmir Investor Summit-2019 is held in Leh.
- ❖ In a first of its kind in the Indian Railways, a paid gaming zone has been provided at Visakhapatnam railway station in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Jasprit Bumrah became the third Indian to claim a hat-trick in Test cricket after Harbhajan Singh and Irfan Pathan.
- ❖ The President of India, inaugurated the National Youth Summit in New Delhi. It was organised by the Youth Awakening Mission.
- ❖ A 27-year-old tribal woman, Anupriya Lakra, from Odisha's Maoist-hit Malkangiri district has become the first woman pilot from the region to fly a commercial plane.
 - She hails from Santhal tribal community.
- ❖ Justice Vikram Nath has been appointed as the chief justice of the Gujarat High Court as per recommendations of the Supreme Court Collegium. He is at present posted as a judge in the Allahabad High Court.
- ❖ Noted Odia writer Pradeep Dash will be conferred with the 40th edition of prestigious Sarala Puraskar for his poetry work "Charu Chibar O Charjya".
 - Started in 1979, Sarala Puraskar is recognised as one of the foremost literary awards of Odisha.
- ❖ Srivilliputhur 'palkova' has been granted GI Tag.
- ❖ Nripendra Misra, principal secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi has submitted his resignation. Former cabinet secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha has been appointed as the officer on special duty (OSD) in the Prime Minister's Office.
- ❖ Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma has launched "Walk to Work on Wednesdays (WWW)" campaign in the state.
 - The campaign is a part of the nationwide Fit India Movement, which has been launched in the country by the Prime Minister.
- ❖ Yashaswini Singh Deswal from Delhi has recently won gold in the women's 10m Air Pistol event at the ISSF World Cup, Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. With the win, she has also secured 2020 Tokyo Olympic quota for India.
 - As on date, this is India's 9th quota in shooting for 2020 Tokyo Games.
- ❖ 2018 Asian Games gold medallist shot putter and Arjuna Awardee Tejinderpal Singh Toor has clinched a "silver medal" with a best throw of 20.09m during an athletic meet at Decin, Czech Republic.



- ❖ P.K. Mishra has been appointed as “Principal Secretary” to the Prime Minister.
- ❖ Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of P.K. Sinha as Principal Advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with effect from 11 September 2019.
- ❖ India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed 200 million-dollar loan agreement for upgrading rural roads in 34 districts of Maharashtra with the objective of improving road safety and better connectivity to rural areas.
- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight tested indigenously developed low weight, fire and forget Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM) in ranges of Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh.
 - The missile was launched from a man portable Tripod launcher.
- ❖ Navdeep Singh Suri, outgoing India’s envoy to United Arab Emirates has been honoured with the First-Class Order of Zayed II award.
 - He was awarded by UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his contribution to the development and strengthening of friendly relations and co-operation between India and UAE during his tenure.
- ❖ PM Modi has announced that the Union Government will spend 3.5 lakh crore rupees in the next five years on ‘Jal Jeevan Mission’ to deliver potable water at every household across the country.
 - Jal Jeevan Mission involves saving water and delivering water at one’s doorstep.
- ❖ A new electric eel “Electrophorus voltai” has been discovered in Amazon rain forest. This organism can discharge upto 860 volts of electricity.
 - This makes it the strongest bioelectricity ever known. Electric eels were inspiration behind the design of first electric battery.
- ❖ Union Minister for Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal has launched the Curriculum for Life Skills (Jeevan Kaushal) designed by University Grants Commission.
 - Life Skills like communication skill, interpersonal skill, time management, problem solving ability, decision making capacity, leadership ability and integrity are part of Under Graduate Course.
- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government plans to launch an online service for those wanting to adopt a cow and provide sheds to them at gaushalas (cow shelters) across the State.
 - Donors can pick a gaushala in the State and pay the amount to fulfil a cow’s diet.



- ❖ The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, Telangana has secured a new distinction as the Indian Concrete Institute awarded it as the outstanding concrete structure of 2019.
 - Award was bagged by Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited.
- ❖ The US-based Committee to Protect Journalists has released a list of 10 worst countries for press censorship. Eritrea, North Korea and Turkmenistan are the top three countries.
 - Saudi Arabia, Iran, Vietnam and China are other Asian countries in the list.
- ❖ The First ever “arrested landing” of Light Combat Aircraft - Tejas (Naval variant) was successfully executed at the Shore Based Test Facility, INS Hansa in Goa.
 - This will pave the way to undertake aircraft carrier landing demonstration on board the Indian Naval Aircraft Carrier, Vikramaditya.
- ❖ Hindi Divas (or Hindi day) is an annual day which is observed every year on 14 September all over India since 1953, to celebrate the popularity of Hindi as an official language of India.
 - On 14 September, 1949 Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as official language of Republic of India.
- ❖ PepsiCo India has roped in India’s star athlete Hima Das as the brand ambassador for its sports drink brand Gatorade.
 - With this the 19-year old Hima Das joins ace shuttler PV Sindhu and javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra as the brand’s ambassadors in country.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has issued an order making public examination mandatory for school students of class 5 and 8 from the current academic year.
 - For the initial three years alone, students who fail will “not be” detained.
- ❖ Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the 72nd Session of World Health Organization -Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO) in New Delhi. He was unanimously elected as Chair of the Session.
 - This is the 2nd time that India is hosting Regional Committee meeting.
- ❖ A high-level delegation from Poland paid a visit to Kolhapur in Maharashtra. Due to Second World War it was in the nearby Valivade camp that 5,000 Polish refugees took shelter during 1943-1947.
 - A museum is expected to be built soon at Valivade. Jamnagar, Gujarat also sheltered 5,000 Polish refugees.
- ❖ Ministry of Railways has removed the flexi-fare scheme from the premium Humsafar trains which were made up entirely of AC-3 coaches.



- Humsafar Express trains was first launched in 2016 between Gorakhpur and Anand Vihar (New Delhi) stations.
- ❖ Pankaj Advani increased his tally of World titles to 22 by winning again in the finals of the IBSF World Billiards Championship.
- ❖ The Defense Research and Development Organization has handed over the 2nd indigenously developed AWAC (Airborne Early Warning and Control) aircraft, 'Netra' to the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ India participated in the 84th Edition of Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF) for the year 2019 in Greece from 7-15 September 2019.
- ❖ Typhoon Faxai, one of the most powerful typhoons, hit the Japanese Tokyo region recently.
- ❖ 81-year old leader of National Conference party of Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah has been detained under the stringent Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA) of 1978, which enables authorities to detain any individual for two years without trial.
- ❖ India has formally launched an initiative to fund 1000 scholars from South East Asian countries to pursue PhD at its 23 Indian Institutes of Technology.
 - It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- ❖ The GST Network has decided to make Aadhaar authentication mandatory for new dealers from January 2020 to check malpractices in GST. Aadhaar authentication was earlier optional.
- ❖ Justice P Lakshmana Reddy, a retired judge of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh High Court was sworn-in as the first Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh.
 - His oath to office was administered by AP Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan at a function held in Vijayawada.
- ❖ Indian Air Force has successfully flight-tested air-to-air missile "Astra" off the coast of Odisha. The missile was launched from a Sukhoi Su-30 MKI combat aircraft.
- ❖ American breast cancer survivor Sarah Thomas became the "first person" to swim across the English Channel four times non-stop in a 54-hour feat of endurance.
- ❖ Uttarakhand government has decided to make Sanskrit language compulsory in all government and private schools from Classes 3 to 8.
 - The main regional languages of Uttarakhand, Kumaoni and Garhwali are accorded that status of "endangered languages" by UNESCO.



- ❖ Haryana High Court Chief Justice Krishna Murari, Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice V. Ramasubramanian, Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice S Ravindra Bhat and Kerala High Court Chief Justice Hrishikesh Roy have been appointed as Judges of Supreme Court of India.
 - The total number of SC Judges becomes 34, which is the highest till date.
- ❖ The 12th century Bronze Idol of Buddha seated in the Bhumisparsha Mudra that was stolen on 22 August 1961 from Nalanda Museum of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has been returned to India by UK.
- ❖ Robert O'Brien has been appointed as the National Security Adviser of United States of America. Robert O'Brien will replace John Bolton as the NSA of US.
- ❖ India Red has clinched the 58th season of the Duleep Trophy tournament by defeating India Green by an innings and 38 runs in the final at Bengaluru.
 - Abhimanyu Easwaran who made 153 runs for India Red, was adjudged the player of the match.
- ❖ Union minister Rajnath Singh has become the first defence minister to fly in the indigenously-built light combat aircraft Tejas, from the HAL airport in Bengaluru.
- ❖ The Government of Maharashtra has decided to set up 'Swachh Bharat World University' in Wardha to mark Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
 - The University will focus on research studies in sanitation, cleanliness and environment.
- ❖ Sahitya Academy's Bal Sahitya Puraskar award-winning author Paro Anand has written the book "Being Gandhi" on the occasion of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ South China giant salamander (Andrias sligoi) which is housed at London Zoo is believed to be the world's largest amphibian.
 - They can grow more than five feet in length and well over 100 pounds.
- ❖ Sanchayika (school banking) Day is celebrated all over the India on 15th September in order to promote the money saving habits among students.
- ❖ World Water Monitoring Day is observed every year on September 18th.
 - The day aims to build public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by empowering citizens to carry out basic monitoring of their local water bodies.
- ❖ The UNESCO recognised, annual International Day of University Sport (IDUS) is observed on 20th September 2019.



- Organised every year since 2016, IDUS aims to create a link between universities and local communities through sport, physical activity and healthy living.
- ❖ World Cleanup Day is a global social action program aimed at combating the global solid waste problem, including the problem of marine debris. The Day coincides in 2019 with Peace Day and the global climate strike (20-27 September).
 - The inaugural World Cleanup Day was 15 September 2018.
- ❖ World Car Free Day was observed on September 22 across the World Cities. It encourages motorists to give up their cars for a day.
- ❖ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has released the book “Himalayan Odyssey”, written by M P Veerendra Kumar, Rajya Sabha member and chairman and MD of Mathrubhumi Group of publications.
 - Himalayan Odyssey is the English translation of Kumar’s Malayalam book Haimavathab-huvil, which had won Kendra Sahitya Akademi and Kerala Sahitya Akademi awards.
- ❖ A pictorial book that traces the journey of Narendra Modi from his days as a young boy from Vadnagar in Gujarat to New Delhi's 7, Lok Kalyan Marg as the 14th prime minister of India - 'Turbulence & Triumph: The Modi Years' has been released.
 - It is written by Rahul Agarwal and Bharathi S Pradhan.
- ❖ Haryana state government has decided to give Ayushman Bharat Card to provide medical insurance to families with income up to Rs 1.8 lakh.
 - Under the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY scheme, eligible beneficiaries can get free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh at empanelled hospitals.
- ❖ Team India stamped its authority on the 10th Asia-Pacific Youth Games badminton competition in Vladivostok of Russia winning the team Championship gold.
 - Shuttlers Pranav and Meghna producing spectacular performances to clinch the boys and girls singles titles, respectively.
- ❖ A cheerful panda called Bing Dwen Dwen has been chosen as the Olympic mascot for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. The new Olympic mascot will serve as an ambassador for winter sports.
- ❖ Russia has formally adopted the 2015 Paris climate agreement and will now allocate financial resources to developing countries for prevention and adaptation to climate change.



- One of the world's key energy producers, Russia has remained one of the largest economies and polluters that signed but failed to ratify the accord till now.
- ❖ Tamilnadu State Department of Archaeology will enter into a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Madurai Kamaraj University and Harvard Medical School.
 - The MoU is to take up ancient DNA study of human bones excavated or to be excavated from Keeladi, Konthagai and Adichanallur sites in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Bulgarian economist Kristalina Georgieva has been confirmed as the managing director of the International Monetary Fund.
 - She becomes the first head of the \$1 trillion-asset global lender from an emerging market economy.
- ❖ The fifth edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held in Kolkata from November 5-8.
 - The Biswa Bangla Convention Centre and the Science City will be prime sites for various events during the festival.
- ❖ Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched a Preventive Vigilance portal to facilitate its staff members to check procedural lapses and promote good practices.
 - It is a first of its kind initiative and it aims to promote the central theme of the PNB, 'Integrity - A way of Life'.
- ❖ The National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Pune has obtained 30 reels of several hours of unedited footage detailing several key events from Mahatma Gandhi's life and his death.
 - They were filmed by some of the most renowned studios in the world like Paramount, Pathe, Warner, Universal and British Movietone and India's own India Movietone studio.
- ❖ The Delhi High Court has launched an official mobile application for providing digital access of its services to everyone.
 - It will contain details of case status, display board of High Court and access to other important links of the high court website.
- ❖ Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Ministry of Defence and Central University of Jammu (CUJ) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of Kalam Centre for Science and Technology at the university, Jammu.



- ❖ In a reshuffle in the top brass of the force, Air Marshal HS Arora has been appointed as the Vice Chief of Indian Air Force (IAF).
 - He will succeed Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria who will take over as the Chief of Air Staff on September 30.
- ❖ Mrs. Pooja Desai, a home-maker from Vadodara, Gujarat has bagged the title of "Mrs India- Pride of the Nation".
- ❖ Chief of Army Staff General Bipin Rawat has taken charge as Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).
 - He received the baton of COSC from outgoing Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) BS Dhanoa, who retires on 30 September 2019.
- ❖ Current Asian Powerlifting Gold Medallist and National Champion, Arthi Arun of Chennai has won five gold medals in the ongoing Commonwealth Powerlifting and Bench Press Championships, 2019 at Canada.
 - She is also the only player from the Tamil Nadu in the Indian contingent for Commonwealth Championships.
- ❖ Kashmir Saffron has received Geographic Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ Rupa Gurunath has been appointed as the first woman president of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, in Chennai, Tamilnadu.
 - With this appointment, she has also become the first woman to head a state-level cricket body in the country.
- ❖ 50th Edition of World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting for 2020 will be held in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland from January 21-24, 2020.
- ❖ The Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti Department of Odisha unveiled a mascot named "Tikki Mausī" in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for nutrition awareness purpose.
 - This mascot name "Tikki Mausī" is referenced to second mother of a child.
- ❖ Suresh Chitturi, Vice Chairman of Indian poultry firm Srinivasa Farms was appointed as the new Chief of the International Egg Commission for a 2-year tenure.
 - He is the first Chief from Asian region to this organization.

TAMIL NADU

Seed-embedded Vinayaka idols

- ❖ The Tamilnadu Horticulture department has introduced seed-embedded Vinayaka idols for sales this year.



- ❖ The Vinayaka statue has seeds of vegetables such as brinjal, tomato, chilly and green vegetables.
- ❖ Once Pooja is over, the statues can be developed into plants.
- ❖ It aims to reduce the burden of immersing the idols in water bodies and sea.

Underwater Archaeological Excavations – TN

- ❖ In a bid to unravel the past trade links of the ancient Tamils, the State Archaeology Department is planning to carry out underwater excavations.
- ❖ It will be in areas of the port cities and towns that existed during the Sangam and medieval periods.
- ❖ Objective: To probe trade contacts with Greek, Roman and Arab merchants.
- ❖ Areas off Mamallapuram, Poompuhar and Korkai and coastal areas near Arikamedu in Puducherry are likely to be focussed on.
- ❖ The last time the State Archaeology Department took up underwater excavations was in the 1990s, off Poompuhar.

Brick Tank – Keeladi

- ❖ A brick tank has been discovered by archaeologists from the site of the ongoing fifth phase of excavation at Keeladi in Sivaganga district.
- ❖ The excavation is being conducted by the state archaeological department.
- ❖ The tank measures 3 to 4 feet in length and is about 2.5 feet wide and two feet deep with brick flooring.



- ❖ The structure was like the tank structures discovered by ASI in the first and second phases of excavation at the site in 2015.
- ❖ Many of those tanks were interconnected.

Tamilnadu-American Investment: Yaadhum Oorey

- ❖ Sixteen US-based companies have committed to invest in Tamil Nadu, to the extent of Rs 2,780 crore and generate employment for Tamilnadu youth.
- ❖ In an interaction with Tamil diaspora in New York, Chief Minister started and informed about the “Yaadhum Oorey” scheme.
- ❖ It is a scheme to attract investments of Tamil diaspora.

Fast track Pocso courts





- ❖ The Tamilnadu department of social welfare has mooted the setting up of three special fast track courts.
- ❖ They will exclusively handle cases booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.
- ❖ The courts proposed are for Chennai, Thoothukudi and Kancheepuram districts.

- ❖ Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi had earlier suggested that every district in the country where there are over 100 such pending cases must set up a special fast track court for trial and speedy disposal.
- ❖ Chennai has over 300 cases pending since the last two years and overall 2,000 cases are pending.

District Level Monitoring Committee: Biomedical Waste Rules, 2016

- ❖ The District Level Monitoring Committee for implementing the Bio Medical Waste Management Rules 2016 has been constituted in Chennai.
- ❖ It is a 16-member committee headed by Chennai collector with representatives from various government departments.
- ❖ It is mandated to draft the District Environment Plan and to furnish monthly progress to chief secretary.

Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016

	Yellow	Human/ Animal Anatomical Waste, Soiled Waste, Expired Medicines, Chemical Waste, Body Fluid, Clinical Waste
	Orange	Contaminated Waste (recyclable) like plastic bag, bottle, pipes or container
	White	Scalpels, Blades, Needles, Syringes including Sharp Metal
	Blue	Broken Glassware or Metallic Body Implant

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: Namakkal, Thiruvallur Districts

- ❖ Women and Child development minister Smriti Irani has said that there is a 13-point improvement in the sex ratio from 918 in 2014-15 to 931 in 2018-19.
- ❖ Ten districts were felicitated for improvement in Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB).
 - Namakkal district from Tamilnadu was selected as one of the top performers in this category.
- ❖ Ten districts were appreciated for good work in generating awareness and outreach activities under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme.

- Thiruvallur district was selected as one of the top performers in this category.

Digital Accelerator Scheme

- ❖ In connection with the promised investments from USA, the Tamilnadu government has launched a facility called Digital Accelerator.
- ❖ This is to extend assistance to all who wishes to invest in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The facility will be executed with aid of American Tamil Entrepreneurs Association.
- ❖ Tamil investors from the US who use this will get financial aid for new ventures.

Mukurthi National Park – Rise in Nilgiri Tahrs

- ❖ A considerable rise in the number of Nilgiri Tahrs, endemic to the Western Ghats has been reported.
- ❖ Its sightings in the Mukurthi National Park have risen from 568 in 2018 to 612 this year.
- ❖ Nilgiri Tahr is the State Animal of Tamilnadu.

About Mukurthi park

- ❖ Mukurthi National Park is a 78.46 km² (30.3 sq mi) protected area located in Nilgiris Plateau, the Western Ghats.
- ❖ The park was created to protect its keystone species, the Nilgiri tahr.
- ❖ It is also home to other endangered species like Royal Bengal Tiger and Asian elephant.



New Coast Guard patrol vessel

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) -Yard-45005 was launched at Ennore in North Chennai.
- ❖ The OPV launched was the fifth in a series of seven OPVs.
- ❖ These OPVs has been indigenously designed and is being built for ICG by a private shipbuilding yard.



Second-best 'Swachh Iconic Place': Madurai Meenakshi Amman

- ❖ The Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple in Madurai has been adjudged the second-best 'Swachh Iconic Place' (clean place) in India.
- ❖ Madurai Corporation Commissioner S. Visakan received the award from the Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi recently.
- ❖ Ten places were identified by the Central government as part of the 'Swachh Iconic Places' initiative earlier this year.

Madras High Court Chief Justice Tahilramani

- ❖ On August 28, the Supreme Court collegium led by Chief Justice of India consisting of five senior-most judges recommended the transfer of Madras High Court Chief Justice VK Tahilramani to the Meghalaya High Court.
- ❖ The Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court, Ajay Kumar Mittal has been posted in her place.



- ❖ After that, Justice Tahilramani has submitted her resignation to the President.
- ❖ She became a judge of Bombay High Court in 2001.
- ❖ She was elevated as Chief Justice of Madras High Court in August 2018 and was due to retire from service in October 2020.
- ❖ She was the 3rd Women Chief Justice of Madras High Court after Kanta Kumari Bhatnagar (1992/93) and Indira Banerjee (2017/18).



Lowest Consumption of Iodised Salt - TN

- ❖ According to a national survey to measure the coverage of “iodised salt”, Tamil Nadu has the lowest consumption of iodised salt.
- ❖ But it is the third biggest producer of salt in the country (No.1 – Gujarat).
- ❖ The survey was conducted by Nutrition International, AIIMS, Delhi and the Indian Coalition for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders.
- ❖ The survey tested the iodine content in samples of cooking salt from households to estimate the coverage of iodised salt in 29 States and 7 Union Territories.
- ❖ Deficiency of iodine which is a vital micro-nutrient, can result in

Goitre	Hypothyroidism
Still Births	Mental Retardation
Psychomotor Defects	Abortion

Algal Bloom in Pamban

- ❖ A 10-km stretch of the shoreline between Kunthukal in Pamban and Vedalai in the Gulf of Mannar turned green and witnessed mass fish deaths.
- ❖ Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute conducted tests and concluded that the sudden blooming of 'Noctiluca marine microalgae' was to blame for the incident.
- ❖ The high temperatures and good organic conditions in seawater had provided a conducive environment for the 'green algae' to breed and release spores.
- ❖ Fishes have died due to 'gill choking' and had died of oxygen depletion and breathlessness.



Automatic Rain Gauge @ 1300 spots

- ❖ The government has engaged a consultant to set up telemetric automatic rain gauges, automatic weather stations, automatic water level recorders.
- ❖ They will be set up in about 1,300 locations in revenue sub-divisions and blocks in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The idea is to develop a comprehensive real-time hydro/meteorological data collection system in phases to acquire reliable data.
- ❖ Data will be used to manage heavy rainfall system or drought.
- ❖ At present, about 470 rain gauges are available at the district headquarters by revenue department, agriculture, PWD and meteorology department.



TN Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy

- ❖ In an attempt to give a boost to the manufacture and use of electric vehicles in the State, Tamilnadu has released the Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy, 2019.

Going electric

The Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy, 2019, provides for various concessions to manufacturers of e-vehicles

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| ■ EV-related and charging infrastructure manufacturing units will be provided 100% exemption on electricity tax till December 2025 | provided a 15% subsidy on the cost, and will be provided 50% subsidy if the investment is in the southern districts |
| ■ Units that obtain land by sale or lease shall be entitled to 100% exemption on stamp duty for transactions till December 2022 | ■ Units will be provided an employment incentive in the form of the reimbursement of employer's contribution to EPFO for all new jobs created till December 2025 |
| ■ Units that obtain land from SIPCOT, SIDCO or other governmental agencies will be | ■ The government will provide a higher capital subsidy of 20% of the eligible investment over 20 years in cases where units are engaged in making EV batteries |
| | ■ Amendment to building and construction laws will be effected to ensure that charging infrastructure is integrated at the planning stage itself for all new constructions and apartments in cities |

- ❖ It has provided for various concessions to manufacturers and users of e-vehicles.
- ❖ The policy called for 100% road tax exemption till December 30, 2022 and a waiver of registration charges for electric two-wheelers.
- ❖ 100% State GST will be “refunded” for EVs manufactured, sold and registered for use in the State till 2030.
- ❖ For tourist and commercial EVs permit fee will be waived till December 2022.

Special Number plates

- ❖ Registration number of Transport vehicles will be exhibited in yellow color on a green background.
- ❖ It will be white on a green background for all other EVs.

Keezhadi Archeological Site, Sivagangai

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department (TNAD) has stated that the cultural deposits unearthed during excavations at Keeladi in Sivaganga district, could be dated to a period between 6th century BCE and 1st century CE.
- ❖ A report titled, 'Keeladi-An Urban Settlement of Sangam Age on the Banks of River Vaigai' has been published by the TNAD.
- ❖ The new findings in the report placed the Keeladi artefacts about 300 years earlier than previously believed.
- ❖ First three excavations were carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India, and the fourth excavation was undertaken by the TNAD.
- ❖ The results suggested that the second urbanisation of the Vaigai plains happened in Tamil Nadu around 6th century BCE as it happened in the Gangetic plains.
- ❖ The report now spels the site as "Keeladi" as against the erstwhile widely used Keezhadi.
- ❖ This is a major turning point in the cultural historiography of the ancient Sangam Age.



Tamil Brahmi Script

- ❖ Fifty-six Tamil-Brahmi inscribed potsherds were recovered from the site of excavation.
- ❖ Keeladi findings fix the date of Tamil-Brahmi script at 6th century BCE.
- ❖ It establishes that local people have attained literacy or learned the art of writing as early as 6th century BCE.

Animals

- ❖ The Skeletal fragments of following animals found at the site were sent to Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute in Pune for analysis of their age.
 - cow/ox, buffalo, sheep, goat, nilgai, blackbuck, wild boar and peacock.



- ❖ The society in Keeladi had used animals predominantly for agricultural purposes.

Carbon Dating

- ❖ Six carbon samples collected from site were sent to Beta Analytic Lab, Miami, Florida, U.S., for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating.
- ❖ One of the six samples collected at the depth of 353 cm and sent for carbon dating test in the U.S., “goes back to 580 BCE”.
- ❖ Pottery specimens from Keeladi sent to the Earth Science Department of Pisa University, Italy, through Vellore Institute of Technology.

Keeladi Excavations

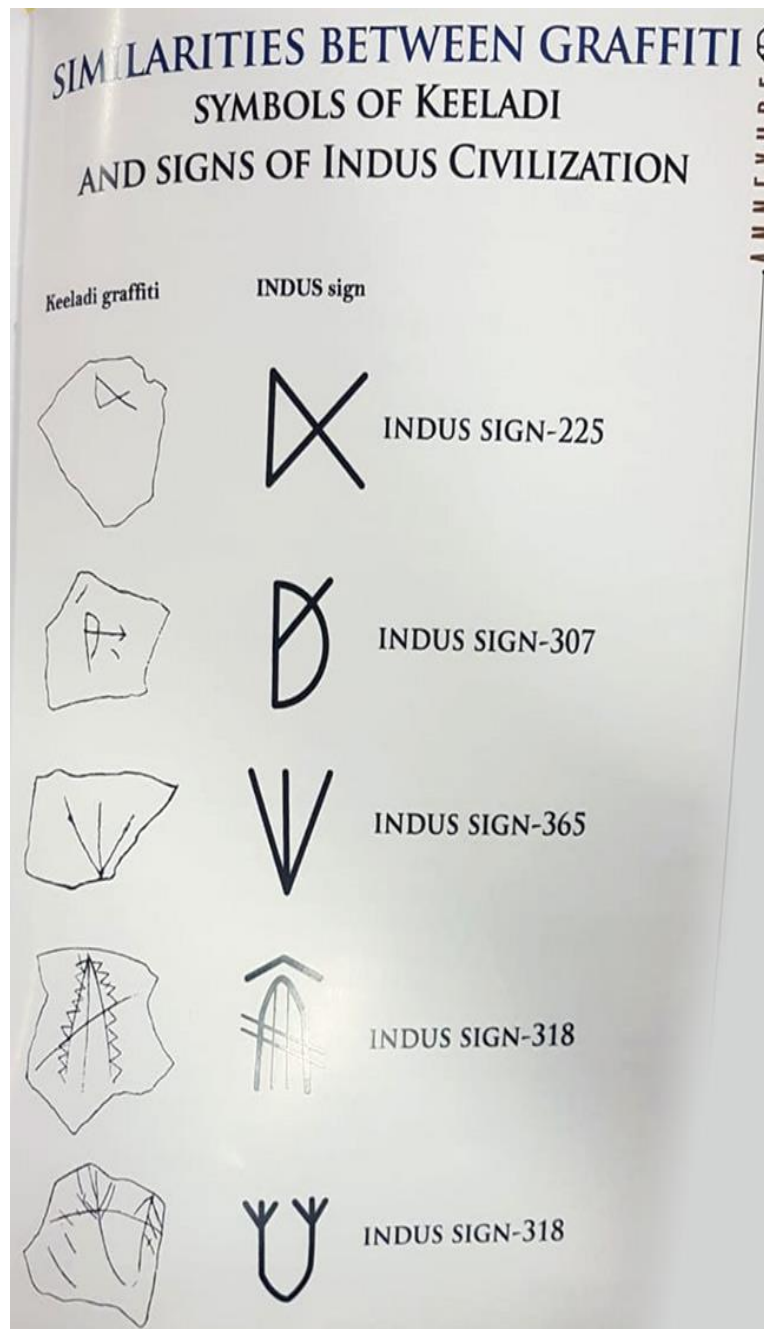
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department (TNAD) has stated that the cultural deposits unearthed during excavations at Keeladi in Sivagangai district could be safely dated to a period between 6th century BCE and 1st century CE that is 2600 years ago.
- ❖ This is the first time the date has been officially announced by the TNAD.
- ❖ Moreover, this is the first time a book on Keeladi has been brought out after it began excavation on the site in 2017.
- ❖ The report titled, ‘Keeladi-An Urban Settlement of Sangam Age on the Banks of River Vaigai’, was published by the TNAD.
- ❖ The new findings in the report place Keeladi artefacts about 300 years earlier than previously believed — 3rd century BCE.
- ❖ The Sangam age is considered to be between 300BC and AD300.
- ❖ But a new report after determining the age through carbon dating of materials unearthed shows the Sangam period could be dated between 600BC and 100 AD.
- ❖ The results from the fourth excavations suggest that the “second urbanization [the first being Indus] of Vaigai plains happened in Tamil Nadu around 6th century BCE as it happened in Gangetic plains.”
- ❖ The new findings prove that an advanced urban habitation existed in Keeladi from 600 BC.
- ❖ The study also say that the Tamils of the Sangam period were literate, as early as 6th century BCE.
- ❖ Six carbon samples collected from the fourth season (2018) of excavations at Keeladi were sent to Beta Analytic Lab, Miami, Florida, U.S., for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating.



- ❖ One of the six samples collected at the depth of 353 cm and sent for carbon dating test in the U.S. “goes back to 580 BCE,”.
- ❖ Skeletal fragments were sent to Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute in Pune, and it identified them of species such as cow/ox, buffalo, sheep, goat, nilgai, blackbuck, wild boar and peacock.
- ❖ But there was no trace of big animals like elephant.
- ❖ This finding suggests that the society in Keeladi had used animals predominantly for agricultural purposes.
- ❖ Fifty-six Tamil-Brahmi inscribed potsherds were recovered from the site of excavation conducted by the TNAD alone.
- ❖ Pottery specimens from Keeladi sent to the Earth Science Department of Pisa University, Italy, through Vellore Institute of Technology for mineral analysis, confirmed that water containers and cooking vessels were shaped out of locally available raw materials.
- ❖ While three excavations were undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India, the fourth excavation was undertaken by the TNAD.
- ❖ The fifth excavation by the latter is under way.
- ❖ The graffiti marks on the artefacts obtained from the excavation site point to a link between the scripts of the Indus Valley Civilization and Tamil-Brahmi.
- ❖ Fifth century BC is considered the date of Tamil (Tamil-Brahmi) based on radiometric dates recovered from archaeological sites like Kodumanal, Alagankulam and Porunthal.
- ❖ The recent dates obtained for Keeladi findings pushback the date to 6th century BC.

About

- ❖ Keeladi excavation site is a Sangam period settlement
- ❖ This excavation site is located 12 km southeast of Madurai in Tamil Nadu, near the town of Keeladi (also spelt as Keezhadi) in Sivagangai district.
- ❖ This is a large-scale excavation carried out in Tamil Nadu after the Adichanallur archaeological site.
- ❖ The settlement lies on the bank of the Vaigai River and it reflects the ancient culture of Tamils.



Tamil Nadu Government Music and Fine Arts University

- ❖ According to a Government Order issued, the Tamil Nadu Government Music and Fine Arts University has been renamed after J Jayalalithaa.
- ❖ The order also said the Tamil Nadu Government Music and Fine Arts University Act 2013 would soon be amended.



- ❖ Founded by Jayalalithaa in 2013, who also served as its first Chancellor, it has four colleges each in Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore and Thiruvayar.

TN – Kerala Parambikulam Aliyar Project Review

- ❖ Kerala and Tamil Nadu have agreed to review the Parambikulam Aliyar Project (PAP) pact.
- ❖ A secretary-level committee with five members each from both sides to work out the details.
- ❖ Additionally, a 10-member committee will look into Tamil Nadu's demand for diverting water from Anamalaiyar, which is linked to the Idamalayar project.
- ❖ Kerala has also agreed to restore power supply to the Mullaperiyar dam, which is managed by Tamil Nadu.

About

- ❖ The PAP treaty was inked on May 29, 1970, with retrospective effect from November 9, 1958.
- ❖ Although it was to be reviewed after 30 years, in 1988, the two States could not reach a consensus despite several rounds of meetings.

NATIONAL

Shagun Portal

- ❖ The Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has launched one of world's largest integrated online junction for School Education called 'Shagun'.
- ❖ It is an initiative to improve school education system.
- ❖ The portal is a junction for all online portals and websites relating to various activities of the Department of School Education and Literacy.
- ❖ The portal seeks to connect approximately 92 lakh teachers and 26 crore students.

National Laboratory Directory

- ❖ The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs Ram Vilas Paswan launched the National Laboratory Directory.



- ❖ It is an online platform created by the National Standards Body of India, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- ❖ It is a one-stop-shop for all testing needs of the industries, academia, researchers and other stakeholders who need to get their Testing Facilities accredited / certified / recognised.
- ❖ 4500 labs have now been linked through this directory. (NABL accredited labs, BIS Recognised/Empanelled Labs, Hallmarking Labs...)
- ❖ All testing facilities for various labs can be searched by Products, IS standards, etc.

Second India-China Informal Summit – Mamallapuram

- ❖ Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu will be the venue for the second India-China informal summit between PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, scheduled in October this year.
- ❖ The first informal summit between them was held in Wuhan in China in April 2018.
- ❖ It is a town in Chengalpattu district, Tamil Nadu.

New Governors Appointed

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind appointed new Governors for five States

Telangana	Dr. Tamilisai Soundarrajan
Rajasthan	Kalraj Mishra
Maharashtra	Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
Himachal Pradesh	Bandaru Dattatraya
Kerala	Arif Mohammed Khan

- ❖ Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were under the dual charge of E S L Narasimhan, who was the Governor of united Andhra Pradesh since 2010.
- ❖ He will be replaced by Dr. Tamilisai.
- ❖ Dr. Tamilisai thus becomes the first lady to be appointed as Governor from Tamilnadu.



**Dr. TAMILISAI
Sundararajan**

Telangana



Kalraj Mishra
Rajasthan



**Bhagat Singh
Koshyari**

Maharashtra



**Bandaru
Dattatraya**

Himachal
Pradesh



**Arif Mohammed
Khan**

Kerala

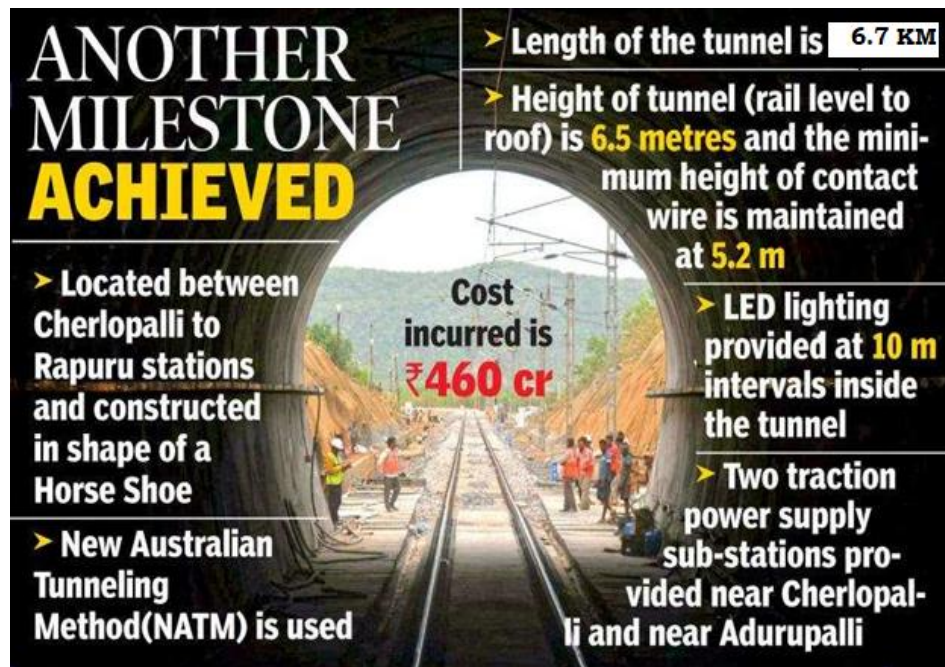


Build for Digital India: MeitY and Google

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Google have signed a statement of intent to roll-out 'Build for Digital India' programme.
- ❖ Objective: To motivate college students across India to innovate and produce some good technology solutions for major social challenges of India.
- ❖ Advanced technologies such as machine learning and AI can help address at scale some of the toughest social challenges that India faces today.

India's longest electrified rail tunnel

- ❖ India's longest electrified rail tunnel was recently inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The 6.7 km long tunnel was constructed at a cost of Rs 437 crore and connects Cherlopalli and Rapuru.
- ❖ It was commissioned by South Central Railway (SCR) of Indian Railways.
- ❖ The new line facilitates direct and viable connectivity between South Coast and West Coast Railway.



ANOTHER MILESTONE ACHIEVED

- > Length of the tunnel is **6.7 KM**
- > Height of tunnel (rail level to roof) is **6.5 metres** and the minimum height of contact wire is maintained at **5.2 m**
- > LED lighting provided at **10 m** intervals inside the tunnel
- > Two traction power supply sub-stations provided near Cherlopalli and near Adurupalli

Cost incurred is **₹460 cr**

> Located between Cherlopalli to Rapuru stations and constructed in shape of a Horse Shoe

> New Australian Tunneling Method(NATM) is used

4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) is scheduled to host the 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) at Bengaluru on 3rd September 2019.
- ❖ India will take over as A-WEB's Chair for the 2019-21 term.
- ❖ A-WEB is the largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide.
- ❖ It was established in 2013. Permanent Secretariat: Seoul, South Korea

Electors' Verification Programme

- ❖ Electors' Verification Programme (EVP) is an initiative from the Election Commission of India.
- ❖ The aim was to make electoral rolls error free.
- ❖ The EVP will continue till October 15.
- ❖ The citizens will be allowed to submit verified documents from Digi locker also.





ELECTORS VERIFICATION PROGRAMME

For any Corrections In Electoral Roll Come Forward and Authenticate Your Details Through

NVSP Portal (www.nvsp.in)

"Voter Helpline" Mobile App

Common Service Centres 

Voter Facilitation Centre at ERO Office 

1950 (Toll Free-Voters Helpline) for Persons with Disability (PwD)

1950  **PERSON WITH DISABILITY**

Date
SEPTEMBER
01 to 30
2019

With the following Documents

Passport	Bank Pass Book
Driving License	PAN Card
Aadhar Card	Farmers Identity Card
Ration Card	Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR
Identity Card-Government / Semi Government Officials	Latest Water / Telephone / Electricity / Gas connection bill

Angikaar campaign

- ❖ The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has launched the 'Angikaar campaign'.
- ❖ It is a move aimed at bringing beneficiaries of PMAY (urban) into the fold of other central schemes such as Ujjawala and Ayushman Bharat.
- ❖ The 'Angikaar' aims at reaching out all the beneficiaries of the PMAY(U) in a phased manner.
- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs also launched an e-course on 'Vulnerability Atlas of India'.
- ❖ It is a unique course that offers awareness and understanding about natural hazards, helps identify regions with high vulnerability with respect to various hazards.



India-Ghana Foreign Office Consultations

- ❖ The 1st India-Ghana Foreign Office Consultations was held in New Delhi on 28 August 2019.
- ❖ The President of India visited Ghana in June 2016.
- ❖ The President of Ghana visited India in March 2018 to attend the Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance.
- ❖ The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in areas of trade and investment, development partnership, defence & security, health & pharmaceutical sector, capacity building & training and people to people contacts.

Central Board of Direct Taxes – Special Cell

- ❖ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified creation of a five-member special cell to address grievances of start-ups with relation to angel tax and other tax-related issues.
- ❖ The cell will be headed by the member (Income Tax and Computerisation) of the board.
- ❖ The cell will work towards redressal of grievances and mitigate tax-related issues in case of start-up entities with respect to administration of Income-tax Act, 1961.

8 Apache AH-64E attack helicopters

- ❖ The Indian Air Force inducted 8 Apache AH-64E attack helicopters at Pathankot Air Force station, Punjab.
- ❖ They are manufactured by US company Boeing and are expected to give a major boost to combat capabilities of Indian Air Force.
- ❖ This acquisition is part of a 22-helicopter deal signed by India and America in 2015.



Global Liveability Index 2019

- ❖ The Economic Intelligence Unit has released Global Liveability Index for 2019.
- ❖ The EIU's index ranks cities by five headline criteria
 - Stability and Culture and environment
 - Healthcare and infrastructure
 - Education
- ❖ New Delhi dropped six places to 118, from 112 last year.
 - Reasons: Rise in number of petty crimes, world's worst air quality index.
- ❖ Mumbai also fell in this year's index, by two places to 119, from 117 last year.
 - Reason: Downgrade in its culture category.
- ❖ The index is topped by Vienna and Melbourne.



South Asian Speaker's Conference

- ❖ The South Asian Speaker's conference was held at Maldives.
- ❖ The Indian delegation in the summit was led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- ❖ Pakistan speaker's attempt to raise the issue of abrogation of Article 370 provisions on Jammu and Kashmir was thwarted.

Samudrayaan Project

- ❖ India's ambition to send men to the deep sea in a submersible vehicle is likely to be a reality in 2021-22 with the 'Samudrayaan' project.
- ❖ The project proposes to send a submersible vehicle with three persons to a depth of about 6000 metres to carry out deep underwater studies.
- ❖ The indigenously developed vehicle is capable of crawling on the sea bed for 72 hours.
- ❖ The 'Samudrayaan' is a part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences and is conducted by NIOT, Chennai.



Sagar Anveshika – Research Ship

- ❖ Titagarh Marines, West Bengal has successfully developed and handed over the Research Vessel – Sagar Anveshika to NIOT, Chennai.
- ❖ It will conduct various oceanographic research missions.
- ❖ The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) functions under Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❖ Titagarh had earlier launched the coastal research vessel “Sagar Tara” in 2018.



Japan-India Annual Defence Ministerial Dialogue

- ❖ Defence Minister of India Rajnath Singh has paid a visit to Japan for the annual Defence Ministerial Meeting between the 2 countries.
- ❖ The Ministers affirmed their intention to hold the first Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue (2+2) ahead of the Japan-India Annual Summit this year.

20th India—Russia Annual Summit: Chennai- Vladivostok Route

- ❖ The 20th India—Russia Annual Summit was held in Vladivostok. PM Modi also participated in the 5th Eastern Economic Forum as the Chief Guest.
- ❖ Modi becomes the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the Russian Far East region.
- ❖ Plans to increase bilateral trade to \$30 billion by 2025 were announced.
- ❖ A Memorandum of Intent was signed to have a full-fledged maritime route between Chennai and Vladivostok.
- ❖ Both countries agreed that the work on promoting mutual settlements of “payments in national currencies” will be continued.

Officially Declaration as Individual Terrorists

- ❖ Dawood Ibrahim, Masood Azhar, Hafiz Saeed and Zaki-ur-Rehman-Lakhvi were declared “individual terrorists” by the government under a new anti-terror law.
- ❖ The Central Government has invoked the recent amendments in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 and declared them as terrorists and added their names to Schedule 4 of the Act.
- ❖ Earlier when terrorist organizations were banned, the individuals associated with it simply changed names and continued to carry out terrorist activities.

TB and Leprosy Screening for Children

- ❖ Since August 2019, India has embarked on a large-scale plan to screen all children for leprosy and tuberculosis.
- ❖ An estimated 25 crore children below the age of 18 will be screened for the two infectious diseases.
- ❖ If a person is suspected to have either of the two, she/he will be sent to a higher centre for confirmation.
- ❖ The existing Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) infrastructure will be used for the screening.



National Conference on India-Africa Partnership

- ❖ National Conference on “India-Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order: Priorities, Prospects and Challenges” was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was organized by Indian Council of World Affairs.
- ❖ India has hosted more than 36 leaders from Africa since 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit held in 2015.
- ❖ 6 additional Indian Missions have been opened to strengthen diplomatic ties.

Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index

- ❖ India has moved up six places to rank 34th on World Travel and Tourism Competitiveness index.
- ❖ Favourable Factors: Rich natural and cultural resources and strong price competitiveness in India
- ❖ India accounts for the majority of South Asia's T&T (travel and tourism) GDP and remains the sub-region's most competitive T&T economy.
- ❖ The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) score has been released by World Economic Forum.
- ❖ Spain topped the list followed by France, Germany and Japan.
- ❖ Japan is Asia's most competitive travel and tourism economy.

TOP TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

Global Rank	Economy	Score	DIFFERENCE FROM 2017		SCORE DIFF. FROM BENCHMARK AVG.	
			Rank	Growth (%)	Regional (%)	Global (%)
4	Japan	5.40	0.00	2.10	29.10	39.60
7	Australia	5.10	0.00	0.80	23.60	33.60
13	China	4.90	2.00	3.20	17.20	26.70
14	Hong Kong SAR	4.80	-3.00	-1.10	15.70	25.10
16	Korea, Rep.	4.80	3.00	4.70	14.90	24.30
17	Singapore	4.80	-4.00	-2.00	14.40	23.70
18	New Zealand	4.70	-2.00	1.40	14.10	23.40
29	Malaysia	4.50	-3.00	0.40	8.50	17.30
31	Thailand	4.50	3.00	2.60	8.10	16.90
34	India	4.40	6.00	5.70	6.30	14.90

Source: World Economic Forum, 2019

Compiled by BS Research Bureau



Facial Recognition at Delhi Airport

- ❖ The Delhi airport has announced that it will start a 3-month trial of biometric facial recognition entry system for domestic passengers of Vistara airline at Terminal 3.
- ❖ With this technology, passengers' entry would be automatically processed based on facial recognition system at all check points – entry, security and boarding.
- ❖ Passengers with valid flight tickets and government ID cards will have to enrol themselves to make use of this facility.
- ❖ Once the flight departs, data of the registered passengers will be deleted.

Yudh Abhyas 2019: India and America

- ❖ A joint military training, Exercise Yudh Abhyas - 2019 is being conducted at Joint Base Lewis Mc Chord, Washington, USA from 05-18 September 2019.
- ❖ Exercise Yudh Abhyas is one of the largest joint running military training and defence corporation endeavors between India and USA.
- ❖ This is the 15th edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.
- ❖ It provides an opportunity to the armed forces of both countries to train in an integrated manner at Battalion level with joint planning at Brigade level.



Vulture Conservation – New Drug Flunixin

- ❖ Introduction of new drugs for cattle in the country is causing serious concern among vulture conservationists.
- ❖ Among the drugs, “flunixin” is considered one of the most dangerous.
- ❖ Just 1% of this new drug in veterinary dispensaries will negatively impact the small population of vultures.
- ❖ Activists have urged the Tamil Nadu animal husbandry authorities to stop its use.
- ❖ Earlier purchase of “ketoprofen” drug was stopped and use of “diclofenac” was reduced to save vulture population.

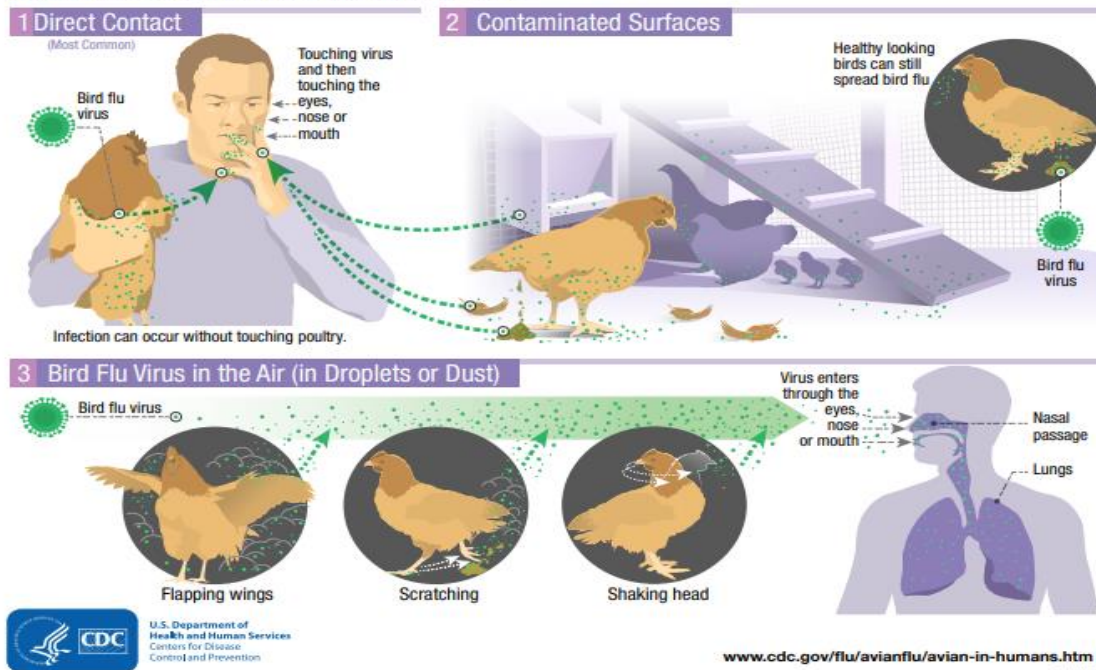


India Declares itself “Avian Influenza Free”

- ❖ India has been declared free of Avian Influenza (H5N1).
- ❖ According to Animal Husbandry Department, with effect from September 3, the OIE-World Organisation for Animal Health declared the country free of the virus.
- ❖ Avian Influenza was first reported from Hongkong in 1997.
- ❖ India too has had multiple outbreaks since 2005.
- ❖ India was last declared free of the disease in 2017. After subsequent outbreaks, India is declared free of the disease for the second time.

How Infected Backyard Poultry Could Spread Bird Flu to People

Human Infections with Bird Flu Viruses Rare But Possible



4th Indian Ocean Conference @ Male

- ❖ 4th Indian Ocean Conference 2019 was recently held in Male, Maldives.
- ❖ Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was one of the speakers at the Indian Ocean Conference 2019 event.
- ❖ The theme for 4th Indian Ocean Conference 2019 was: 'Securing the Indian Ocean Region: Traditional and Non-Traditional Challenges'.

Defence Minister Visits S. Korea

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh paid an official visit to South Korea.
- ❖ A military logistics agreement was signed.
- ❖ It assures logistic support to India when it operates in the Indo-Pacific in the ports of South Korea.
- ❖ South Korean industry was invited to manufacture the components used in main weapon systems under Make in India.
- ❖ He stressed that South Korea's 'New Southern Policy' and India's 'Act East Policy' will help to form a Special Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

Conference on Military Medicines: SCO Members

- ❖ The conference on Military Medicine for Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) Member States will be held in New Delhi on 12 – 13 September, 2019.
- ❖ It will be the “first Military co-operation event” hosted by India, under the SCO Defence Co-operation Plan 2019-2020.
- ❖ The SCO Member States will be represented by senior military medical practitioners.
- ❖ India became a SCO Member State in 2017.
- ❖ Conference was hosted by Indian Armed Forces under the aegis of Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff.



SLINEX 2019: Sri Lanka and Indian Navy Exercise

- ❖ Sri Lankan Navy is sending two ships to India to participate in the SLINEX 2019.
- ❖ SLINEX 2019 is a bi-lateral maritime fleet exercise between Navies of India and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Since 2005, six successful SLINEX series of maritime exercises have been conducted.

- ❖ This has helped the two Navies in understanding each other's procedures and to contribute towards maritime security in the region.

Kargil to Kohima ultra-marathon

- ❖ The Indian Air Force is organising an ultra-marathon named as 'Kargil to Kohima (K2K): Glory Run' spanning over 4,500 km from Kargil to Kohima.
- ❖ It aims to commemorate 20 years of 'Vijay Diwas' or 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' (named after successful Operation Vijay).
- ❖ The marathon run was flagged off by Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa in a ceremony held at Vayu Bhavan in New Delhi.
- ❖ This unique expedition of ultra-marathon from Kargil to Kohima commencing on 21 September 2019 will conclude on 6 November 2019.
- ❖ It will be from Kargil War Memorial at Dras in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), and Kohima War Cemetery in Kohima (Nagaland).

Western Air Command Commanders' conference 2019

- ❖ A two-day long Western Air Command, Commanders' Conference 2019 was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa was the chief guest of the Conference.
- ❖ The Conference witnessed the discussions on critical analysis of operational preparedness and training including measures to promote high utility of combat assets.





68th Plenary session of the North Eastern Council 2019

- ❖ Union Home Minister chaired the 2-day event of 68th Plenary session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) 2019 at Assam.
- ❖ NEC, is a nodal agency for the economic and social development of the North East which consists of 8 states of the region.

About NEC

- ❖ It is set up under North Eastern Council Act, 1972.
- ❖ It is chaired by Union Home Minister.
- ❖ Minister of Development of North East Region (DoNER) is its Vice-Chairman.
- ❖ Governors and Chief Ministers of all the 8 North Eastern States are its members.

Nehru Yuva Kendras for Disaster Response

- ❖ Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) will constitute Disaster Response Teams at block level selected hazard prone districts.
- ❖ They will work as “first responders” in case of disasters in an area.
- ❖ The program is coordinated by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on a pilot basis in 32 multi-hazard prone districts in 28 States and Union Territories.

About

- ❖ NYKS is the largest grassroot level youth organization in the world.
- ❖ It was formed in 1972.
- ❖ It is an autonomous organization under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Common High Court: JK and Ladakh

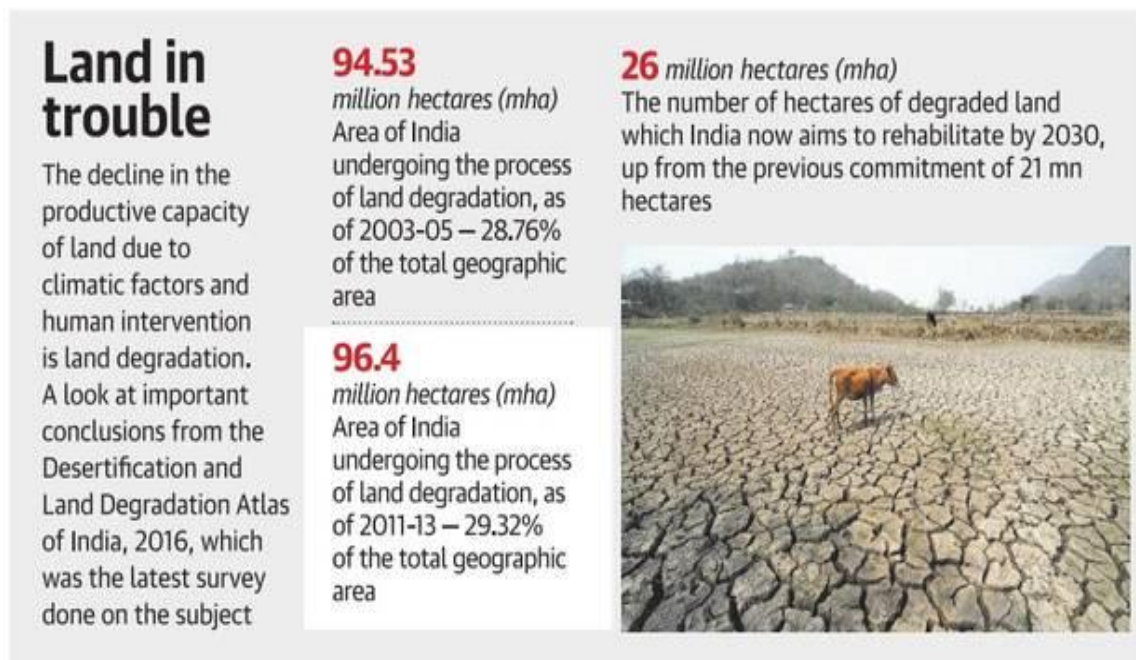
- ❖ Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will become two separate Union territories from October 31 but will have a “common high court”.
- ❖ It was informed by State Judicial Academy's Director Rajeev Gupta.
- ❖ He also said that 108 Central Laws would be applicable for the two UTs.
- ❖ 164 state laws would be repealed and 166 state laws will continue to be applicable.

Helicopter Summit - 2019

- ❖ Union Ministry of Civil Aviation organised country's first ever helicopter summit at Sahastradhara helidrome in Dehradun, capital of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The summit was based on theme of expanding connectivity through helicopters.
- ❖ Indian Air Force (IAF) was also invited at the summit to talk on 'Role of IAF helicopters in MEDEVAC (Medical Evacuation at National level)'.

Restoring Degraded Land: Target Revised

- ❖ PM Modi has announced that India will aim to rehabilitate 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- ❖ Earlier the target was 21 million and it has now been revised.
- ❖ The decision was announced at the 14th session of Conference of Parties (COP) to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) being held at New Delhi.



Findings submitted at UNCCD COP 14

- ❖ According to some researchers three animal species in India are under severe threat of extinction due to desertification.
- ❖ They are Indian Cheetah, pink-headed duck and Great Indian Bustard.
- ❖ Desertification is caused due to insecticides, pesticides, conversion to agricultural land, industries and chemicals.



Sanjay Mitra Committee on J & K Bifurcation

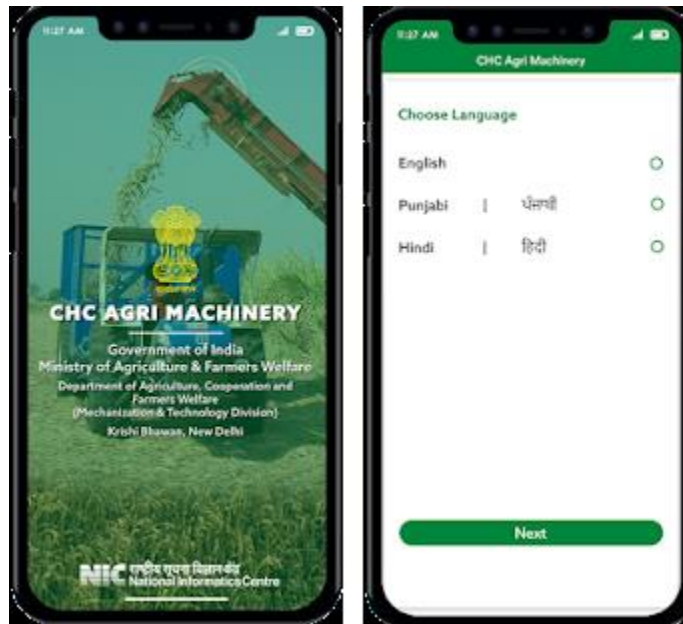
- ❖ Centre has set up a 3-member panel to oversee the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.
- ❖ The committee will look into the distribution of assets and liabilities of Jammu and Kashmir between two successor Union territories.
- ❖ Head: Former Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra
- ❖ Members: Retired IAS officer Arun Goyal and Retired Indian Civil Accounts Service officer Giriraj Prasad Gupta

India-Nepal Petroleum Pipeline

- ❖ PM Modi and his Nepalese counterpart K P Sharma Oli inaugurated the Motihari-Amalekhgunj petroleum pipeline through video conferencing.
- ❖ It is the first ever cross-border petroleum products pipeline in South Asia.
- ❖ The 69-km pipeline will transport fuel from Barauni refinery in Bihar's Begusarai district to Amalekhgunj in southeastern Nepal.
- ❖ It will reduce the cost of transporting fuel to landlocked Nepal from India.

Multilingual App to Hire Farm Machinery

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala launched the multilingual Mobile App “CHC Farm Machinery” during a conference on Crop Residue Management in New Delhi.
- ❖ Purpose: The App connects the farmers with Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs) in their area.
- ❖ Farmers can get affordable access to cutting-edge technology at their doorsteps.
- ❖ Most hired farm equipments: rotavator, zero till drill, drum seeder, multi-crop planter, power weeder and chaff cutter.



Energy Efficient Buildings– ANGAN Conference

- ❖ A three-day long international conference on Energy Efficiency in Building Sector called - ANGAN (Augmenting Nature by Green Affordable New-habitat) is being held at New Delhi.
- ❖ Organised by: Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, GIZ organisation of Germany
- ❖ Idea Proposed: Investing Rs.2000 billion in Building energy efficiency activities would lead to a savings of 388 Billion units of electricity for the next ten years.

Indian Skill Development Services

- ❖ The first batch of the Indian Skill Development Services (ISDS) has commenced their training program at the Administrative Training Institute (ATI), Mysuru.
- ❖ ISDS is the newest Union government services.
- ❖ Purpose: This service has been specially created for the Training Directorate of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and is a Group 'A' service.
- ❖ This is the first batch which is joining the ISDS cadre from the Indian Engineering Service Examination conducted by UPSC.

Golden Arrows squadron resurrected for Rafale

- ❖ The Indian Air Force has resurrected the Air Force Station Ambala-based 17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows'.
- ❖ They will be the first unit to be trained to operate the first squadron of Rafale fighter jets.
- ❖ The resurrection ceremony was presided over by IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) B.S. Dhanoa.

About Golden Arrows Squadron

- ❖ The 17 Squadron was raised at Ambala on October 01, 1951, under the command of Flight Lieutenant D.L. Springett.
- ❖ It was disbanded in 2016 after the IAF started gradual phasing out of Russian-origin MIG-21 jets.
- ❖ It had also been commanded by ACM B.S. Dhanoa during 1999 Kargil Conflict.

About Ambala Airbase

- ❖ Built in 1948, Ambala air base of Haryana is used for military and government flights.
- ❖ It has two squadrons of the Jaguar combat aircraft and one squadron of the MIG-21 Bison.
- ❖ Air Marshal Arjan Singh was the first commander of the base.



Kashmir Apples – Market Intervention Scheme

- ❖ Apple growers in the Kashmir Valley are facing unprecedented losses.
- ❖ The Union government has now announced that it will procure apples directly from the growers and that money will be transferred directly to their accounts.
- ❖ Under a special Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) will make the purchase.
- ❖ Due to government-enforced security clampdown, growers have been unable to transport their produce to markets.

About

- ❖ MIS is implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.
- ❖ All the agricultural and horticultural commodities for which Minimum Support Price (MSP) are “not fixed” and are generally perishable in nature are covered under MIS.

Animal Disease Control and Artificial Insemination

- ❖ PM Modi launched the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) and the National Artificial Insemination Programme at Mathura.



Realizing the dream of doubling farmers' income by 2022

PM Modi launches the 'National Animal Disease Control Programme'

- A Central government funded programme to vaccinate **500 million livestock**
- This aims to eradicate FMD (foot and mouth disease) & brucellosis in cattle
- Rs. 12,652 crores** to be spent in the next five years
- Artificial insemination to be initiated as well
- Move to enhance the income of farmers all across the nation

Prosperous farmers / Prosperous New India

Source : Government of India | /BJP4India | www.bjp.org

- ❖ NADCP aims to eradicate Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis amongst the livestock in the country.
- ❖ 500 Million Livestock (cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs) will be vaccinated against the above 2 diseases.

- ❖ 36 Million Female Bovine Calves will be vaccinated annually against Brucellosis disease.
- ❖ The Programme has two components
 - To control the diseases by 2025
 - To Eradicate the diseases by 2030.

2 New Species of Zingiber

- ❖ Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered two new species of Zingiber, commonly referred to as ginger, from Nagaland.
- ❖ They are
 - Zingiber perenense
 - Zingiber dimapurens
- ❖ Zingiber has 141 species distributed throughout Asia – 20+ species are found in North East India.



16th AEM-India Consultations: Bangkok

- ❖ Economic Ministers from ten ASEAN Member States (AEM) and the Minister of Commerce of India recently met at Bangkok (Thailand) for the 16th AEM-India Consultations.
- ❖ During the meeting, India and ASEAN have agreed to review their Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in goods to make it more business-friendly.
- ❖ Two-way trade stood at USD 80.8 billion in 2018.



- ❖ India is ASEAN's sixth largest trading partner and sixth largest source of FDI.
- ❖ The India-ASEAN FTA in goods was signed in 2009 and came into force from January 2010.

Highest Startups – Delhi-NCR Region

- ❖ Bangalore-based research firm Zinnov and TiE Delhi have released a report titled "Turbocharging Delhi-NCR Startup Ecosystem."
- ❖ It states that Delhi-NCR region has more startups and unicorns than Bengaluru and Mumbai.
- ❖ Unicorns are companies with a valuation of at least \$1 billion
- ❖ With suitable government and private sector interventions, Delhi-NCR could become one of the top 5 global startup hubs in 2025.

Revising Huge Fines under Motor Vehicles Act

- ❖ Road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari has said that states have "the authority to revise fines" levied under the new Motor Vehicles Act.
- ❖ Motor Vehicles Act falls in the concurrent list so states as well as the Centre can revise and frame rules under the amended act.
- ❖ The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, came into effect on 9 August.
- ❖ 63 clauses from the Act, including penalty provisions were implemented from September 1, 2019.
- ❖ States can revise fines for as many as two dozen clauses.
- ❖ Gujarat government has already reduced fine amounts stipulated in the new Motor Vehicles Act.

National Genomic Grid (Cancer) – India Specific Solutions

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Aswini Kumar Choubey has announced that government plans to set up a National Genomic Grid for Cancer.
- ❖ The initiative is expected to take cancer research to the next level and make treatment viable for people of different economic classes.
- ❖ This National Genomic Grid will collect samples and study genomic data of cancer patients from India.
- ❖ It will be used to identify the right treatment modalities for Indian population.

Cleanliness is Service 2019 (Swacchta hi Seva) – Plastic Usage

- ❖ Swachhata hi Seva 2019 was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Mathura, Uttar Pradesh on September 11, 2019.
- ❖ The theme of the campaign is ‘plastic waste awareness and management’.
- ❖ It aims for mass awareness generation activities on plastic waste management between September 11 and October 1.
- ❖ There will also be a nationwide campaign for plastic waste collection and segregation on October 2.
- ❖ The collected plastic waste will then be recycled and effectively disposed before Diwali, which is on October 27, 2019.
- ❖ After the launch of Swachhata hi Seva 2019, PM Modi visited the Pashudhan Arogya Vigyan Mela.
- ❖ Under this program, cows were being operated to remove plastic waste from their stomachs.



Malaria and India – Rank 4

- ❖ According to the latest Lancet Commission report, India is ranked fourth in the number of malaria cases in the world.
- ❖ Out of the 219 million cases that occurred in 2017, as many as 9.6 million occurred in India.
- ❖ India is followed by Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo And Mozambique.
- ❖ In other parts of world, Malaria is primarily a rural disease but India is the only country where there were cases of “urban malaria”.



- ❖ In 2017, 71 per cent of malaria cases in Tamil Nadu occurred in the capital city, Chennai.
- ❖ The main malaria vector in India 'Anopheles stephensi' is particularly suited for Indian urban environments.

Indian Institute of Skills – 3 Cities

- ❖ Union Minister of state for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) Raj Kumar Singh has laid the foundation stone for the Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) at Mumbai.
- ❖ Objective: To provide skill training in highly-specialised areas to students who want to pursue technical education after completing Class X and XII.
- ❖ IIS seeks to ensure that 5,000 trainees will be passing out every year with 70% placement opportunities.
- ❖ IIS will be on the lines of the IITs and IIMs.
- ❖ Initially 3 IIS will be set up - Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Kanpur.
- ❖ The launch of IIS is a step towards making India the Skill Capital of the World.
- ❖ These institutes will be set up and operated on a Public-Private Partnership Model - Tata Education Development Trust is the private partner for IIS, Mumbai.

Bulletproof Jackets – Made in India

- ❖ India has begun exporting bulletproof jackets as per its own standards to over 100 countries including European nations.





- ❖ India is the fourth country after the US, UK and Germany to have its own national standard on bulletproof jacket which provides 360-degree protection.
- ❖ In December 2018, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) framed a national standard for bulletproof jacket following a direction from the Prime Minister's Office and the Niti Aayog.
- ❖ Manufactured by 2 Defence Public Sector Units: MIDHANI, Hyderabad and Ordnance factory at Avadi, Chennai.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana

- ❖ PM Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)
- ❖ PM-KMY is an old age pension scheme for all land holding Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) in the country.
- ❖ It is voluntary and contributory for farmers in the entry age group of 18 to 40 years and a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- will be provided to them on attaining the age of 60 years.
- ❖ The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) shall be the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out.

National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons.
- ❖ This is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for the shopkeepers/retail traders and self-employed persons with annual turnover not exceeding Rs 1.5 crore.
- ❖ It is a scheme for entry age of 18 to 40 years with a provision for minimum assured pension of Rs 3,000/- monthly on attaining the age of 60 years.
- ❖ The Union Government shall give 50 % share of the monthly contribution and remaining 50% contribution shall be made by the beneficiary.

Ekalavya Model Schools Launched

- ❖ PM Modi launched 462 Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) across the country in Tribal Dominated Areas.
- ❖ The schools would focus to provide quality upper primary, secondary and senior secondary level education to ST Students in these areas.



- ❖ It is implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.



About

- ❖ EMRS is a Government of India scheme for model residential school for Indian tribals (Scheduled Tribes) across India.
- ❖ It was introduced in the year 1997-98.
- ❖ They are set up in States/UTs with grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India.

National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) Project

- ❖ Under the NATGRID project, government proposes “to link social media accounts” to the database of records related to immigration entry and exit, banking and telephone details among others.
- ❖ NATGRID database will collate information from more than 20 organisations in the fields of telecom, tax records, bank, immigration, etc.
- ❖ At least 10 central agencies like IB, R&AW and others will have access to the data on a secured platform for counter-terror investigations.
- ❖ The project was started in 2009 in the aftermath of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
- ❖ It is expected to be rolled out by end of 2019.
- ❖ NATGRID Head: Ashish Gupta IAS

President Visits Iceland, Switzerland and Slovenia

- ❖ President of India Ram Nath Kovind, addressed the India-Iceland Business Forum in Reykjavik, capital of Iceland.
- ❖ He is on a 3 day visit to Reykjavik, Iceland from 9-11 September 2019.

- ❖ This is part of President's visit to– Iceland, Switzerland and Slovenia.
- ❖ This is also the first visit of an Indian President to Iceland since visit of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam in 2005.

UN Honour for Indian Women Police Officers

- ❖ Five Indian women police officers were honoured by the United Nations for their commendable services in the world body's mission in South Sudan.
- ❖ The women officers who were conferred the UN medal were:
 - Reena Yadav (Inspector Chandigarh Police)
 - Gopika Jahagirdar (DSP, Maharashtra Police)
 - Bharati Samantray (DSP, Ministry of Home Affairs)
 - Ragini Kumari (Inspector, Ministry of Home Affairs)
 - Kamal Shekhawat (ASP, Rajasthan Police)



- ❖ They were awarded at the UN medal at a medal parade in the UN Mission in Juba, South Sudan.

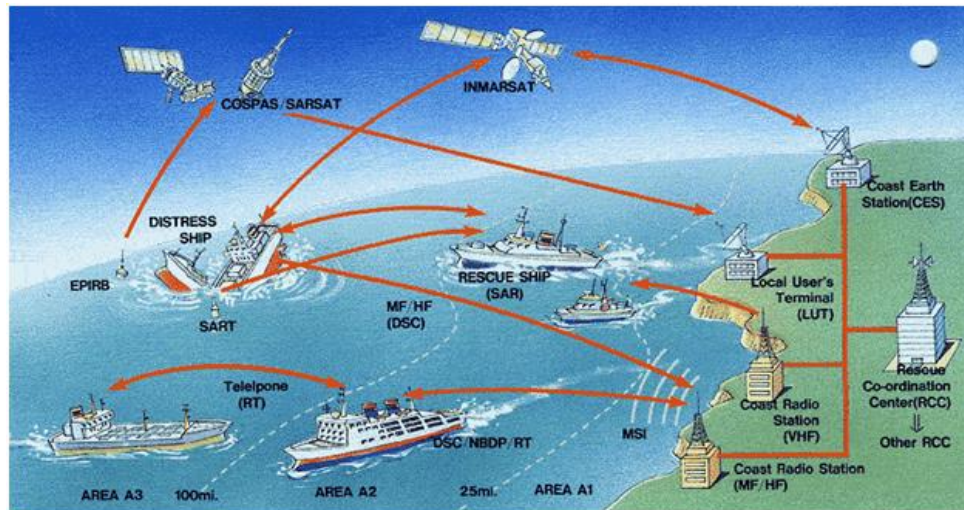
Central Equipment Identity Register

- ❖ Union Telecom Minister has launched the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR).
- ❖ It aims to curtail the rampant cloning and theft of mobile phones across the country.

- ❖ CEIR is a database of International Mobile Equipment Identities (IMEIs), the 15-digit numbers that uniquely identify each mobile device.
- ❖ The project has been started on a pilot basis in Maharashtra and later it will be implemented across the country.

Maritime Communication Services

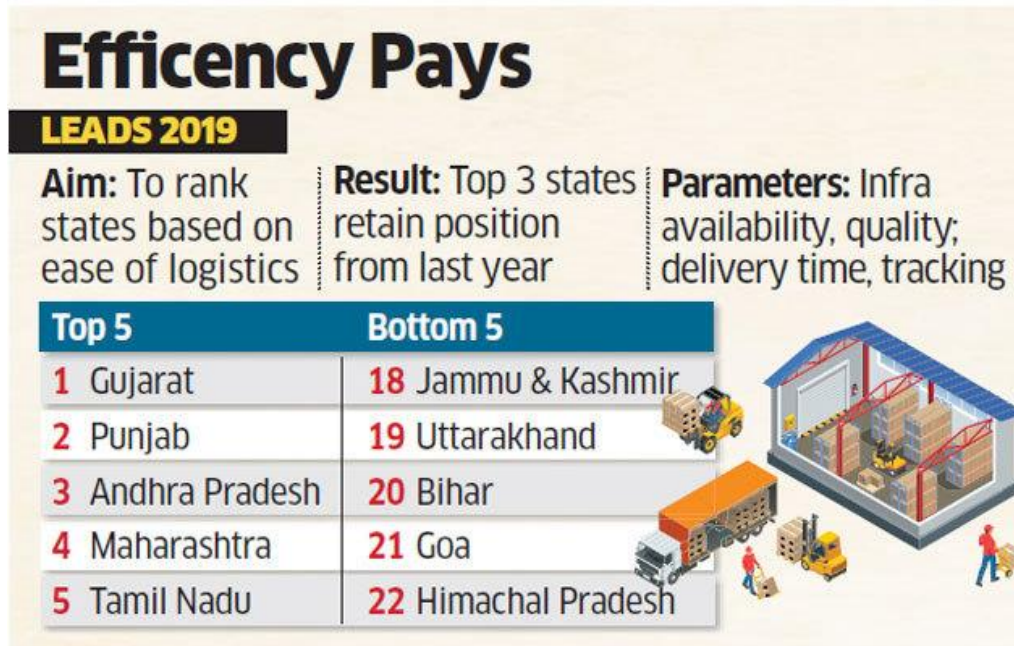
- ❖ Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology Ravishankar Prasad launched the maritime communication services at Mumbai.
- ❖ It will enable high-end support to those in sea by providing access to Voice, Data and Video services while traveling on sailing vessels, cruise liners, ships in India.
- ❖ VSAT solutions provider 'Nelco', a Tata enterprise, has become India's first company to provide broadband services to the maritime sector.



Leads Index 2019

- ❖ The Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal released a report on the 2nd edition of perception-based index of mobility of goods and efficiency, the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) index in New Delhi.
- ❖ The list is topped by Gujarat, followed by Punjab and Andhra Pradesh in the second and third places respectively.
- ❖ While among Union Territories, Chandigarh topped the list followed by Delhi and Puducherry in the second and third place respectively.
- ❖ Among the hilly Eastern States, Tripura is the top performer and Himachal Pradesh ranked last in the index at 22nd spot.

- ❖ The top three ranking states in 2019 were ranked in the same position in its previous index also.
- ❖ The index is developed by commerce and industry ministry along with the company Deloitte Touché Tohmatsu Ltd (Deloitte).



HimVijay - war exercise

- ❖ The Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) will jointly engage to conduct a large war exercise codenamed 'HimVijay' in October 2019 along the china border near Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ This would be the 1st and biggest ever war game done by the strike corps in the eastern region.
- ❖ For the first time, 17 Mountain Corps will be involved over 2500 soldiers will participate in it.

60 years of DD Channel

- ❖ Doordarshan has completed 60 years of existence.
- ❖ Doordarshan (DD) is an autonomous public service broadcaster founded by the Government of India and owned by the Information and Broadcasting (I & B) Ministry of India.
- ❖ It was established in 1959 in Delhi, then spread to Mumbai and other cities.



- ❖ On April 1, 1976, it was separated from All India Radio and became a new department under the Ministry of I & B.
- ❖ Its headquarters is at Delhi and Motto is “Satyam Shivam Sundaram”.

Drones to Map the Country

- ❖ The Survey of India (SoI) will for the first-time use drones to map the country.
- ❖ 300 drones will be used to map 75% of India’s geography (2.4 million sq. km)
- ❖ Unprecedented details will be captured.
- ❖ Such high-resolution maps of land in villages will facilitate the digitisation of land titles in villages.
- ❖ Currently the best SoI maps have a resolution of 1:250000, meaning a 1 cm in the map represents 2500 cm on the ground.
- ❖ The maps being prepared now will be of 1:500 resolution, meaning 1 cm will represent 500 cm.

About

- ❖ Survey of India is the National Survey and Mapping Organization of the country.
- ❖ It is the oldest scientific department of the Government of India.
- ❖ It was set up in 1767 and headquarters is at Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It is under the Department of Science & Technology.

First Private Train: Tejas Delhi-Lucknow

- ❖ India's first private train Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express will commence operation from October 4, 2019.
- ❖ It will be the first train of Indian Railways that will be entirely run by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- ❖ For the first time, a paid door-door luggage pickup and delivery service is introduced.
- ❖ There will be No Tatkal tickets and No tickets at reservation counters.
- ❖ No concessions, privileges or duty passes will be allowed on these trains.



1st Women Defence Air Attache @ Moscow

- ❖ Wing Commander Anjali Singh, an aeronautical engineer who specialises in handling fighter jets has taken over as the Deputy Air attaché at the Indian embassy in Moscow.
- ❖ She is the first woman officer has been posted as a defence attaché in an Indian mission abroad.
- ❖ She also holds the distinction of being the first female Indian Armed Forces Officer to be posted as a military diplomat in “any” of the Indian missions abroad.
- ❖ India has over 100 defence attachés or advisers (DAs) posted in different countries across the globe.
- ❖ Only some countries like the US, UK and Russia have representatives from all the three Indian Services - the Army, Navy and IAF.

About

- ❖ A military attaché is a military expert who is attached to a diplomatic mission, often an embassy.
- ❖ They also enjoy diplomatic status and immunity.

Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019

- ❖ The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019 which was passed by the Parliament during the last Budget Session has come into effect.



- ❖ The Bill amends the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.
- ❖ This will facilitate smooth and speedy eviction of unauthorized occupants from Government residential accommodations.
- ❖ This is expected to further increase availability of government residential accommodations for eligible persons and reduce the waiting period.

National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development

- ❖ Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. HarshVardhan inaugurated the National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development at Indian Institute of Science (IISc)-Bengaluru.
- ❖ Objective
 - Development of Clean Coal technologies
 - Developing supercritical power plant technologies
- ❖ The research in clean coal domain will be helpful for meeting the energy needs of the country

About

- ❖ Clean coal technology is a collection of technologies to lessen the negative environmental impact of coal energy generation.

SITMEX – 19

- ❖ A maiden trilateral exercise named SITMEX-19, involving Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Royal Thailand Navy (RTN) and Indian Navy (IN) has commenced at Port Blair.
- ❖ The five-day-long exercise is aimed at bolstering the maritime inter-relationships amongst navies of Singapore, Thailand and India.
- ❖ The program is to enhance the overall maritime security in the region.
- ❖ Malaysia has evinced interest to join the exercise.

5th International Ramayan Festival

- ❖ The 5th International Ramayan Festival organized by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is being held from 17-19 September 2019 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The year 2019 is 5th edition of International Ramayan Festival.



- ❖ Artists from 17 countries have participated and rendered their versions of Ramayan.

About

- ❖ ICCR was founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad who was independent India's 1st Education Minister.
- ❖ The ICCR was established with the vision of propagating Indian culture and to strengthen mutual understanding and cultural relations between India and other countries.

Bharat Bill Payment System

- ❖ In a consumer-friendly initiative, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the scope and coverage of Bharat Bill Payment System.
- ❖ It includes all categories of billers who raise recurring bills and payments (except prepaid recharges) as eligible participants, on a voluntary basis.
- ❖ School fees, insurance premiums, EMIs and municipal taxes, which can also be paid through BBPS.

About

- ❖ BBPS is an integrated bill payment system that offers interoperable bill payment service to customers online and via a network of agents on ground.
- ❖ It functions under National Payments Corporation of India.

Wargaming Software by DRDO

- ❖ The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has handed over a New-Generation Wargaming Software to the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The software is aimed at creating an environment that would enable Maritime Warfare Centres (MWCs) to train using latest technological and computing tools.
- ❖ It was developed by New Delhi-based Institute for Systems Studies and Analysis (ISSA) and Maritime Warfare Centres (MWCs), Visakhapatnam
- ❖ ISSA is a premier DRDO laboratory.

Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS)

- ❖ Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways Piyush Goyal has launched Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS)

- ❖ It has been developed on the pattern of US Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) system.
- ❖ SIMS has been notified with effect from 1 November 2019.
- ❖ It will provide advance information about steel imports to Union government and industry stake holders to have effective policy interventions.
- ❖ The data will be monitored by steel ministry.

e-cigarettes banned

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given the “approval” to ban e-cigarettes.
- ❖ The production, manufacturing, import/export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertising related to ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) or e-cigarettes are banned.
- ❖ The government has taken the ordinance route for the ban.
- ❖ Eighteen states and two Union territories have already prohibited the use and sale of e-cigarettes, e-hookah and vaping.

Up in smoke

Wednesday's move follows an advisory by the government in 2018 to all States to consider banning e-cigarettes

▪ e-cigarettes are brought from China and other countries and are not manufactured in India. They are also available online

▪ 16 States & one Union Territory have already banned them. The Indian Council of Medical Research, in a recent paper, had recommended a complete ban on them



▪ WHO too urged member countries to take appropriate steps. It does not endorse e-cigarettes as cessation aids

▪ They are marketed as being safer than conventional cigarettes but this is false. Available literature suggests that they may act as gateway products to induce non-smokers to nicotine-use



World's Largest Diaspora – Indians

- ❖ At 17.5 million, India's diaspora continues to be the largest diaspora in the world.
- ❖ It constitutes 6.4% of the total world migrant population of 272 million in mid-2019.
- ❖ UAE (3.4 million), US (2.6 million) and Saudi Arabia (2.4 million) were the top three migration destinations for Indians.
- ❖ More than 50,000 Indians have acquired US Citizenship in the last year.
- ❖ The report "International Migrant Stock 2019" has been released by the Population Division of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).
- ❖ Migrants from Mexico constituted the second largest diaspora (11.8 million), followed by China (10.7 million), Russia (10.5 million), Syria (8.2 million), Bangladesh (7.8 million), Pakistan (6.3 million), Ukraine (5.9 million), the Philippines (5.4 million) and Afghanistan (5.1 million).
- ❖ In 2019, regionally, Europe hosted the largest number of international migrants (82 million), followed by Northern America (59 million) and Northern Africa and Western Asia (49 million).
- ❖ At the Country level, United States of America is hosting the largest number of international migrants (51 million), equal to about 19 per cent of the world's total.
- ❖ Germany and Saudi Arabia host the second and third largest numbers of migrants (13 million each), followed by Russia (12 million), the United Kingdom (10 million), the United Arab Emirates (9 million), France, Canada and Australia (around 8 million each) and Italy (6 million).

THE MOVE

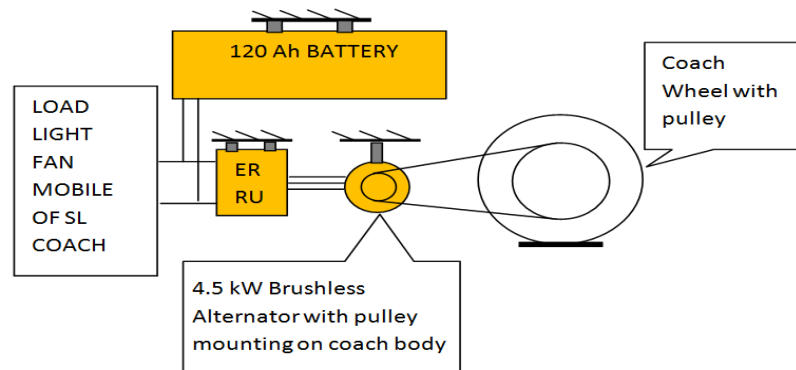


Advanced Landing Ground Reopened @ Vijayanagar, Arunachal

- ❖ India has reopened the advanced landing ground (ALG) at Vijaynagar in Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Vijaynagar is dominated by former Assam Rifles personnel settled there since May 1961 for strategic reasons.
- ❖ The place is on the border with Myanmar.
- ❖ The local Lisu tribal people call the place Daudi.
- ❖ The IAF had first commenced its operations in Vijaynagar with the Dakota and Otter aircraft in 1962.
- ❖ Now an AN-32 aircraft had landed with further provisions for C-130J and C-17 heavy-lift transport aircraft landing.

Indian Railways: Head on Generators

- ❖ Ministry of Railways has decided to adopt Head on Generation (HOG) technology in all LHB Coaches trains within this year.
- ❖ Till date 342 trains have already been converted into HOG.
- ❖ The new technology HOG will be available at ₹6 per unit as compared to the End-on-Generation (EOG) system, in which cost of power is ₹22 per unit.



How it works?

- ❖ In HOG Technology, the power will be drawn from the overhead electric supply.
- ❖ The power generator cars which used to make huge noise and emit fumes will no more be there.
- ❖ In place of two such generator cars there will be
 - one standby silent generator car to be used for emergency.
 - Other car will have the capability to convert power from the overhead supply to be utilised in the entire train.



Emerging Trends in Public Architecture

- ❖ A National Seminar on 'Emerging Trends in Public Architecture' was inaugurated by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep S. Puri at New Delhi.
- ❖ The seminar was organized by Central Public Works Department as part of Nationwide Awareness Campaign during ongoing 'Construction Technology Year – 2019-20'.
- ❖ It aims to increase awareness about the use of modern technologies in the construction sector.

New Airforce Chief – RKS Bhadauria

- ❖ Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria has been appointed as the new Indian Air Force chief.
- ❖ A highly decorated officer, Bhadauria was instrumental in finalising the Rafale jet deal with France.
- ❖ He is currently vice chief of air staff and will take over the post of chief of Air staff after his predecessor BS Dhanoa retires on September 30.
- ❖ He was also due to retire on the same day as BS Dhanoa.
- ❖ But since he is appointed now, he will serve a three-year term or till the age of 62, whichever is sooner.

Mortality Estimates of Pregnant Women and Children

- ❖ An estimated 2.8 million pregnant women and newborns die every year, or 1 every 11 seconds.
- ❖ The death is attributed to mostly of preventable causes.
- ❖ This mortality estimate is released by UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Division, UNFPA and the World Bank Group.
- ❖ In 2017, according to the latest estimates,
 - Over 800 women died each day from complications in pregnancy and childbirth.
 - Within 28 days of life, 7,000 newborn babies died every day.
- ❖ Through its "Every Child Alive" global campaign, UNICEF urges governments, private sector and civil society to ensure the maternal health and survival of newborns.



Mobile Phones for PwDs

- ❖ The Digital Communications Commission (DCC) has approved a series of measures to increase Information and Communications Technology (ICT) access to persons with disabilities (PwD).
- ❖ It has mandated all major mobile phone manufacturers, which produce 5 or more models, to produce at least one model which satisfies the needs of PwDs.
- ❖ The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 recognises 21 disabilities.
- ❖ Mobile phone makers will be mandated to extend the benefits of ICT to all such people.
- ❖ Samsung has recently launched 2 models focused on PwDs.

Mineral Exploration

- ❖ Mines and Coal Minister Prahlad Joshi has urged coal industry to boost India's mineral output by 200 per cent in the next seven years.
- ❖ He invited them to use the Rs.1500 crores lying unspent with the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET).
- ❖ Mining sector has a pivotal role to play in the 'Make in India'.
- ❖ National Mineral Policy 2019 proposes to attract private investment through various incentives like financial package, right of first refusal at the time of auction etc.

Right to Access Internet – Kerala High Court

- ❖ The Kerala High Court held that the right to have access to the Internet is part of both
 - The fundamental right to education
 - The right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution
- ❖ The landmark judgement has been delivered in the RK Faheema Shirin V State of Kerala, 2019 case.
- ❖ The court ordered the principal of Sree Narayanaguru College, Kozhikode, to re-admit the suspended student Faheema Shirin.
- ❖ Shirin was suspended for using mobile phone after stipulated hours.
- ❖ In 2016, the United Nations Human Rights Council released a non-binding resolution condemning intentional disruption of internet access by governments.



- ❖ It also states that right of access to Internet is a fundamental freedom and a tool to ensure right to education.
- ❖ The Supreme Court in the S. Rengarajan and others v. P. Jagjivan Ram (1989) has also laid out that restrictions on fundamental freedom can be justified only on anvil of necessity and not for convenience or expediency.



Internet Access is
Basic Fundamental
Right:
Supreme Court

New Model to Develop Vaccines – Dept of Biotech

- ❖ The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is to develop new influenza vaccines using a Controlled Human Infection Model (CHIM).
- ❖ Under CHIM, volunteers who take part in trials will be infected with infectious viruses or bacteria but under expert supervision.
- ❖ This approach will speed up the process whereby scientists can quantify whether potential vaccine candidates can be effective in people.
- ❖ It also identifies the factors that determine why some vaccinated people fall sick and others do not.

Objective

- ❖ To use CHIM protocols to study bacterial or enteric viruses (residing in the intestine) such as cholera or typhoid.
- ❖ If successful, these would serve to create back-ups to the existing cholera and typhoid vaccines.



Handbook on Fisheries Statistics – 2018

- ❖ The Handbook on Fisheries Statistics - 2018 has been published by the Department of Fisheries of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India.
- ❖ The last (12th edition of) Handbook was published in 2014.
- ❖ India is currently world's second largest producers of fish.
- ❖ It is also world number two in aquaculture production as well as in inland capture fisheries.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has recorded the highest production of inland fish (34.50 lakh tones)
- ❖ Gujarat is the leading state in Marine fish (7.01 Lakh tonnes) in the country.

NEAT Scheme 2019 – AI in Higher Education

- ❖ HRD Ministry has announced a new scheme called NEAT for using technology to get better learning outcomes in Higher Education.
- ❖ National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) aims to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalised and customised as per the requirements of the learner.
- ❖ AICTE would be the implementing agency for NEAT programme.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented in PPP (Public Private partnership Model) - EdTech (Education Technology) companies will be roped in as partners.
- ❖ They will be responsible for developing solutions and manage registration of learners through the NEAT portal.

Khanderi Submarines

- ❖ Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) delivered the second Scorpene Class submarine "INS Khanderi" to the Indian Navy at an event held in Mumbai.
- ❖ The fully automated sub will be commissioned into the Indian Navy on September 28 at the Naval Dockyard by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ❖ The submarine 'KHANDERI' is named after the wide snouted Saw fish, a deadly sea predator of the great Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The earlier version of Submarine Khanderi was commissioned into the Indian Navy in "1968" and decommissioned in 1989.



Tech Partner

- ❖ MDL builds the submarines under a transfer of technology agreement with the Naval Group of France.

NCG Vishwam Cancer Care Connect

- ❖ NCG Vishwam Cancer Care Connect (NCG-Vishwam 3C) was launched in Vienna on the sidelines of 63rd General conference of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by K. N. Vyas, Secretary DAE & Chairman AEC.
- ❖ NCG-Vishwam 3C envisages integration of the hospitals and relevant cancer care institutes from partner countries with the National Cancer Grid (NCG) of India.

About

- ❖ NCG was established in 2012 by Tata Memorial Trust and funded by and is funded by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India.
- ❖ It aims to establish uniform standards of patient care for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer.

Buddha Statue Unveiled at Mongolia

- ❖ PM Modi and Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga have jointly unveiled through video conferencing Buddha statue at the historic Gandan Tegchenling Monastery, Ulaanbaatar.
- ❖ The statue depicts Buddha in a sitting posture along with his two disciples conveying the message of compassion along with peace and coexistence.





- ❖ It was installed and consecrated at the Gandan Monastery earlier this month during the third edition of "SAMVAAD" dialogue held in Ulaanbaatar.
- ❖ 3rd SAMVAAD was a discussion on contemporary Buddhism by world Buddhist scholars and monks.
- ❖ Mongolian President is on a 5-day state visit to India.

Digital Payment Abhiyan

- ❖ Union Communications and Electronics & IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched the 'Digital Payment Abhiyan' at the 'Google for India' event.
- ❖ Collaborators: NASSCOM's Data Security Council of India (DSCI), Union Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) and Google India.
- ❖ It aims at increasing awareness about cashless payment, educate end-users on the benefits of making digital payments.
- ❖ It also promotes online financial security and urges citizens to adopt best security and safety practices.
- ❖ It is pan-India campaign that will be conducted in seven languages
 - English
 - Tamil
 - Telugu
 - Kannada
 - Bengali
 - Marathi
 - Hindi

Chang Thang Integrated Exercise @ Ladakh

- ❖ The Indian Army conducted an all arms integrated exercise 'Changthang Prahar' in the eastern Ladakh region, bordering China.
- ❖ It was conducted to showcase and test the army's ability to fight in extreme terrain and altitude.
- ❖ Such an exercise has happened for the first time in the region.
- ❖ It comes in the backdrop of a scuffle between Indian and Chinese troops on the northern bank of Pangong Tso (Tso means lake) in Ladakh.
- ❖ The army's aviation assets were used. Airforce also took part in the exercise.



Plastic Bottle Crushing Machine – Mumbai

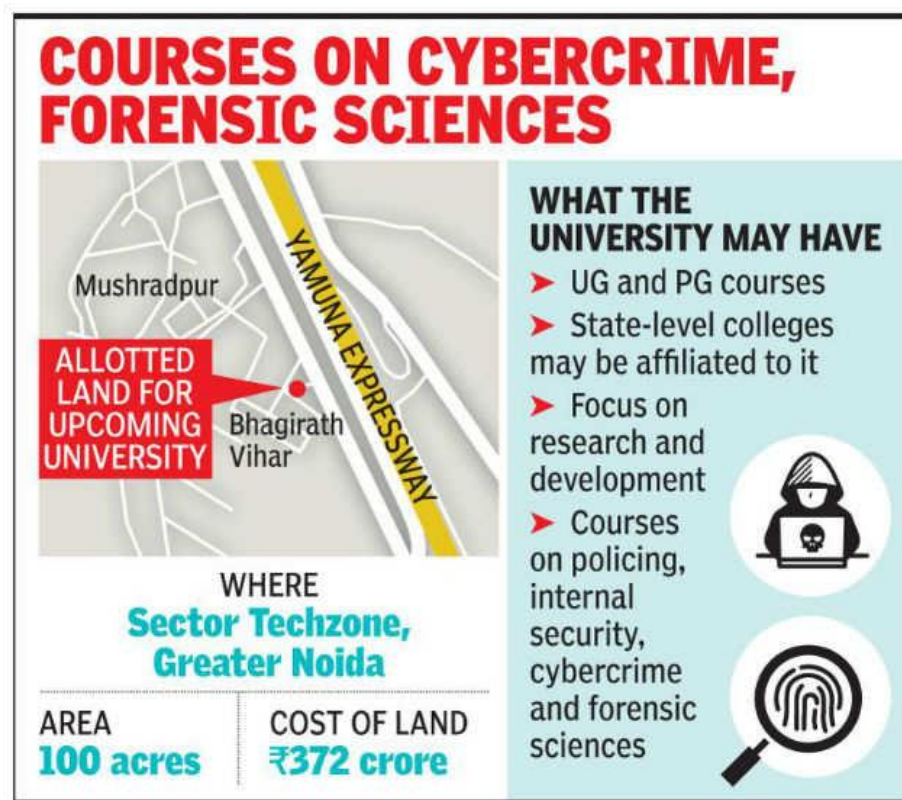
- ❖ The Western Railway for the first time has installed a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottle crushing machine in Mumbai Rajdhani Express.



- ❖ This machine can crush up to 3,000 bottles per day.
- ❖ It was installed in the train as part of the Indian Railways' Swachh Bharat and Go Green missions.
- ❖ It is expected to reduce carbon footprints by 100 per cent recycling and will also avoid littering in landfill from bottle waste.
- ❖ Mumbai Rajdhani is a super-fast express train that runs between Mumbai Central and New Delhi.

National Police University

- ❖ The country's first central police university will be set up by the Union home ministry off the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida.



- ❖ The university will offer undergraduate and post-graduate courses on policing, internal security, cybercrime and forensic sciences.
- ❖ A central university would be beneficial for all ranks in the force, especially in the field of research and development.
- ❖ Knowledge base related to behavioural sciences will be developed.



MIS Portal – Accessible India Campaign

- ❖ Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot has launched a Management Information System (MIS) portal.
- ❖ The MIS portal has been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for stakeholders of Accessible India Campaign (AIC).
- ❖ It aims to bring all nodal ministries, states and the Union Territories on a common platform to monitor the progress made against each target of the AIC.

About

- ❖ AIC was launched on December 3, 2015, on the occasion of the International Day of People with Disabilities.
- ❖ It is also known as Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan.
- ❖ It launched as a nation-wide campaign for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
- ❖ Eliminating obstacles/ barriers in indoor and outdoor facilities including schools, medical facilities, workplaces and transport system is a part of the program.

Social Stock Exchanges – Ishaat Hussain Panel

- ❖ SEBI has appointed a high-level panel to suggest possible structures and regulations for creating 'social stock exchanges'.
- ❖ It will be headed by Ishaat Hussain.
- ❖ These social stock exchanges would facilitate listing and fund-raising by social enterprises as well as voluntary organisations.
- ❖ They aim to take the capital markets closer to the masses and meet various social welfare objectives.

BLEU Joint Economic Commission Meet

- ❖ The 16th Session of India-Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) Joint Economic Commission (JEC) has been held recently.
- ❖ BLEU was established in 1997.
- ❖ The European Union is India's largest trade partner.
- ❖ Among the 28 EU member States, Belgium has the third largest trade with India.
- ❖ It is trade worth €12.8 billion in 2018 consisting of diamonds, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, foodstuff and machinery.



- ❖ Belgium was the first country in the world to deploy the Electronic Identity Card (eID) which is similar to AADHAR.

Karo Sambhav – Packing Waste Management

- ❖ Leading consumer products companies such as Coca-Cola India, PepsiCo India and Bisleri have launched a first-of-its-kind packaging waste management venture in the country.
- ❖ The venture is called Karo Sambhav.
- ❖ It will focus on creating a formal eco-system for collection of post-consumer packaging and optimising material recycling processes.
- ❖ Karo Sambhav is a producer-led and owned venture that aims to ensure that no recyclable packaging material ends up in landfills by 2025.
- ❖ Beverage industry states that nearly 90 per cent of the PET bottles are recycled and has plans to Ban 200 ml bottles.

India @ UN Climate Action Summit

- ❖ At the United Nations Climate Action Summit, India has agreed to increase its renewable energy target to 450 GW.
- ❖ India's renewable energy target under the Paris Agreement was 175GW by 2022.
- ❖ India also reiterated to spend approximately \$50 billion “in the next few years” on the Jal Jeevan Mission to conserve water, harvest rainwater and develop water resources.
- ❖ 80 countries have already joined the International Solar Alliance initiated by India.

About the Summit

- ❖ The UN Climate Action Summit 2019 was hosted by UN Secretary-General António Guterres at New York.
- ❖ Teen Climate change activist Greta Thunberg of Sweden opened the Summit.
- ❖ Around 63 nations have been invited to the summit including delegation led by Prime Minister Modi.
- ❖ They were urged to enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) or their climate action plan to fulfil commitments under the 2015 Paris Agreement.



Why is it important?

- ❖ As per UN estimates, the world would need to increase its efforts fivefold to contain climate change to a 1.5°C rise at most.
- ❖ Any temperature rise beyond that would lead to major and irreversible damage.



CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT 2019



**A RACE WE
CAN WIN**

Census 2021 - Janganana Bhawan

- ❖ Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah laid the Foundation Stone for construction of a new building of the Registrar General of India (RGI) that conducts census in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is named as Janganana Bhawan.
- ❖ 2021 census exercise would be carried out digitally.
- ❖ ₹12,000 crore would be spent on preparation of the National Population Register (NPR) and census.

About

- ❖ NPR links biometric and demographic details of any ordinary resident, thus making it a comprehensive database of residents.
- ❖ An ordinary resident is defined as a person
 - who has resided in a local area for the past six months or more or
 - a person who intends to reside in that area for the next six months or more.
- ❖ NPR exercise is different from the census and is not linked to the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Ispati Irada – Steel Industry

- ❖ The steel ministry organised an event called “Chintan Shivir: Towards a Vibrant, Efficient and Globally Competitive Indian Steel sector”.
- ❖ The event aims to make Indian Steel Sector more vibrant, efficient and globally competitive.



- ❖ A new logo for steel industry was released at the event. It is called “Ispati Irada”
- ❖ The brand “Ispati Irada” will be allowed to be used by entities working on this theme.
- ❖ The campaign aims to increase appropriate usage of steel in the country and bring more strength to society.

Mochi Swabhimaan Initiative – Leather Sector

- ❖ The Skill Development ministry has announced the “Mochi Swabhimaan” Initiative.
- ❖ Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) is the coordinating agency.
- ❖ Under this, the LSSC will assist the cobbler community in India for leather-based services, providing better working conditions.
- ❖ LSSC also coordinates the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- ❖ PMKVY encourages skill development to boost employability and productivity of youth by incentivizing skill training.
- ❖ India’s leather sector is the second largest leather garment and footwear producer globally.
- ❖ It contributes 13% to the total leather production, globally.
- ❖ It employs over 2.5 million people in India.

About LSSC

- ❖ LSSC is a non-profit organization approved by National Skill Development Corporation.
- ❖ It is dedicated to meet the demand for skilled workforce in the leather industry in India.

Ladakhi Shondol Dance – Guinness Record

- ❖ Ladakhi Shondol dance has created history by breaking into the Guinness book of world records.
- ❖ 408 women artists performed the Shondol dance on the occasion of the Annual Naropa Festival.
- ❖ Naropa Festival is the ongoing Buddhist carnival near the 11th-century world-famous Hemis Monastery in Ladakh.
- ❖ Shondol is the royal dance of Ladakh.
- ❖ It is performed by Takshoma or women dancers to praise the King of Ladakh on special occasions.



All India Survey on Higher Education 2018-19

- ❖ Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) collects online information on Universities, Colleges and other Higher Educational Institutions under the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE).

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

- ❖ GER in Higher education has increased from 25.8% in 2017-18 to 26.3% in 2018-19.
- ❖ GER is calculated for 18-23 years of age group.

GER	Ratio
Male	26.3%
Female	26.4%
SC	23%
ST	17.2%

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh comes at number one with the highest student enrolment followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

College density

- ❖ College density is the number of colleges per lakh eligible population (population in the age-group 18-23 years)
- ❖ The top 8 States in terms of highest number of colleges in India are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh
- ❖ It varies from 7 in Bihar to 53 in Karnataka as compared to All India average of 28.
- ❖ Bangalore Urban district tops in terms of number of colleges with 880 colleges.
- ❖ 60.53% Colleges are located in Rural Area.
- ❖ 11.04% Colleges are exclusively for Female.
- ❖ Total enrolment in higher education has been estimated to be 37.4 million.
- ❖ Females constitute 48.6% of the total enrolment.

Foreign Students

- ❖ Highest share of foreign students come from the neighbouring countries of which Nepal is 26.88% of the total.
- ❖ It is followed by Afghanistan (9.8%), Bangladesh (4.38%), Sudan (4.02%), Bhutan constitutes (3.82%) and Nigeria (3.4%).

Pupil Teacher Ratio

- ❖ Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) in Universities and Colleges in regular mode enrolment is 29.

Gandhi Solar Park @ UN Head Quarters

- ❖ During his visit to the USA, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a 50 kilowatt 'Gandhi Solar Park' at the Headquarters of the United Nations.
- ❖ Along with Modi, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina and President of South Korea Moon-Jae-in also launched a United Nations postage stamp of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ PM also inaugurated a Gandhi Peace Garden at the State University of New York Campus at Long Island.
- ❖ 150 trees have been planted in honour of Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
- ❖ The event was hosted to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Catch the sun

The Gandhi Solar Park at the UN headquarters in New York is an Indian effort to go beyond the talk on climate change and climate action. At a contribution of about \$1 million, India has gifted the solar panels that have been installed on the roof of the building, one panel each for 193 member states



- System size of each panel:
71.41 KW
- Projected annual system output: 86,244 kWh (equals to carbon dioxide emissions from 30,246 Kg of coal burned or carbon sequestered from 1,008 tree seedlings grown for 10 years)

Howdy Modi!

- ❖ Modi has participated in string of events, including addressing the NRIs at the mega Howdy Modi! event in Houston, Texas.
- ❖ US President Trump also attended the event.
- ❖ Modi was awarded the Global Goalkeeper Award by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Sardar Patel National Unity Award

- ❖ The government has announced the institution of Sardar Patel National Unity Award.
- ❖ It will be the highest civilian honour in the field of contribution to the unity and integrity of the country.
- ❖ The award will be announced on the occasion of National Unity Day on October 31, the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.

Purpose

- ❖ The award seeks to recognise notable and inspiring contributions to promote the cause of national unity and integrity and to reinforce the value of a strong and united India.
- ❖ It will be conferred by the President of India along with the presentation of Padma awards.



About the Award

- ❖ The award comprises a medal and a citation and will have no monetary or cash component.
- ❖ Not more than three awards will be given in a year.
- ❖ Any Indian or institution based in the country will be able to nominate an individual for the award.
- ❖ Except in rare and highly deserving cases, it will not be conferred on anybody posthumously.



Anti-TB Campaign: TB Harega Desh Jeetega

- ❖ Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has recently launched the 'TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign'.
- ❖ This campaign aims to eliminate tuberculosis from India.
- ❖ He also launched 25 National TB Prevalence Survey vans to carry out a survey across the country in the next six months.
- ❖ India has set a target to eliminate TB by 2025. UN's target is 2030.

Reconstituting PM's Economic Advisory Council

- ❖ The Government of India has reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC).
- ❖ It will function for a period of two years with effect from September 26, 2019.
- ❖ "Dr. Bibek Debroy and Ratan P. Watal will continue to be the chairman and member secretary, respectively, of the reconstituted EAC-PM.
- ❖ Two part-time members Rathin Roy and Shamika Ravi were shunted out.

About

- ❖ PMEAC is a non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent body constituted to give economic advice to the Government of India, specifically the Prime Minister.
- ❖ The PMEAC is chaired by a Chairperson and consists of eminent economists as members.
- ❖ There is no fixed definition on the exact number of members and staff of the PMEAC.





16th Global SME Summit, New Delhi

- ❖ Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the 16th Global SME Business Summit 2019 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Summit is organized every year by Ministry of MSME and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).
- ❖ The theme for 2019 is “Making Indian MSMEs Globally Competitive”.
- ❖ MSME ministry promised to launch soon a new E-Commerce website ‘Bharat Mart’.
- ❖ Share of MSME in GDP = 29%
- ❖ Share of MSME in Export = 49%

First India- CARICOM Meet

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the leaders of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) during the first-ever India-CARICOM leaders’ summit held at USA.
- ❖ The meet focussed on fighting climate change and increasing India’s participation with the grouping.
- ❖ India had also given an immediate assistance of \$1 Million to Bahamas during the recent Hurricane Dorain.

About

- ❖ The CARICOM grouping has 15 members-states and five associate members.
- ❖ It was formed in 1973.
- ❖ It was established as an economic and political community that works jointly to shape policies for the region and to encourage economic growth and trade.
- ❖ CARICOM Members
 - Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

Removal of Garbage @ Siachen

- ❖ Since January 2018 Indian Army has disposed of nearly 130 tonnes of waste from Siachen Glacier.
- ❖ Based on a 2018 concept note on waste management on the glacier, the Army has made bringing down waste a part of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for troops.

- ❖ On an average, 236 tonnes of waste is generated every year on Siachen glacier.

About

- ❖ India has held the glacier's dominating heights since it occupied them in 1984 under 'Operation Meghdoot'.
- ❖ The Bana post is the highest on the glacier close to 22,000 feet.
- ❖ At 18,000-19,000 feet, Indian and Pakistani posts face each other.
- ❖ Beyond 22,000 feet only Indian army is there.



Project NETRA

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated 'Project NETRA'.
- ❖ Netra (Network for space object Tracking and Analysis) is an early warning system in space to detect debris and other hazards to Indian satellites.
- ❖ It gives India its own capability in space situational awareness (SSA).
- ❖ Netra can spot, track and catalogue objects as small as 10 cm, up to a range of 3,400 km and equal to a space orbit of around 2,000 km.
- ❖ NETRA will also be aided by
 - Multi-Object Tracking Radar (MOTR) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
 - Telescopes at Ponmudi, Tamilnadu and Mount Abu, Rajasthan

Defensive Applications

- ❖ SSA would help us to understand motives behind any suspicious orbit changes of other satellites and to know if they were spying on or harming our spacecraft.

Largest Dry Dock, Mumbai

- ❖ The Indian Navy has got its biggest dry dock located inside the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.
- ❖ It can service India's only aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, weighing 44,500 tons and the first indigenous carrier Vikrant, being built in Kochi
- ❖ This is probably the only dry dock in the country that is surrounded by the sea from three sides.
- ❖ In a dry dock water is drained out after a ship is brought in, to enable repair and inspection.
- ❖ Repairs which are not possible when the ship is in water, take place.

About

- ❖ The Bombay Dockyard was established in 1732.
- ❖ The naval dockyard in Mumbai has three other dry docks — Bombay Dock, Duncan dock and Cruiser Graving Dock.



ICGS Varaha - New Patrol Ship

- ❖ Defense Minister Rajnath Singh formally commissioned the Coast Guard offshore patrol vessel 'ICGS Varaha' at the Chennai Port Trust.
- ❖ ICGS Varaha has capabilities to operate twin engine ALH Helicopters developed indigenously by HAL.
- ❖ The ship will be commanded by Commandant Dushyant Kumar.
- ❖ It will be based at New Mangalore under the administrative and operational control of Coast Guard Commander (West) Region.



Global Digital Competitiveness Rankings

- ❖ India has been ranked 44th in the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2019 produced by the IMD World Competitiveness Center.
- ❖ The US was ranked as the world's most digitally competitive economy, followed by Singapore in the second place, Sweden stood third.
- ❖ India advanced four places from 2018 rankings due to overall improvement in three factors -digital knowledge, technology and future readiness.

23rd Malabar Exercise

- ❖ The Malabar Exercise 2019, the trilateral maritime exercise between navies of India, Japan and the US began off the coast of Japan.
- ❖ This is the 23rd edition of Malabar Exercise.
- ❖ The exercise seeks to further strengthen India-Japan-US naval cooperation
- ❖ Participating Indian military assets
 - INS Sahyadri- Indigenously built multi-purpose guided-missile frigate
 - INS Kiltan – Also an indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette.
 - P8I (Poseidon Eight India) - Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft

IPCC report on the Ocean and Cryosphere


- ❖ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) presented the special report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate Context.

Key Findings

- The global mean sea level had risen by 16 cm between 1902 and 2015. The rate of increase had doubled in the last one decade.
- The sea levels were rising because of thermal expansion of ocean waters due to rising temperatures as well as due to melting of glaciers and polar ice.
- Examples
 - Greenland ice sheet – Between 2006 and 2015 lost ice-mass at an average rate of 278 billion tonnes every year.
 - Antarctic ice sheet - lost a mass of 155 billion tonnes every year between 2006 and 2015.

INS Nilgiri – Stealth Frigate

- ❖ Defense Minister Rajnath Singh has launched Navy's first new stealth frigate, INS 'Nilgiri', at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited in Mumbai.

INS NILGIRI	
FIRST OF P-17A FRIGATES	
6,500 tonnes	
Total weight	
2,650 tonnes	
launch weight	
KEY FEATURES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Better survivability ■ Improved sea keeping ■ stealth manoeuvrability 	
WHO ALL INVOLVED	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mazagon Dockyard Ltd ■ DRDO ■ Garden Reach 	
sipbuilders & Engineers	
■ Other public, pvt partners	
COSTS INVOLVED	
Rs 1,320 crore	
Dry dock project	
Rs 25,000 crore	
Scorpene project	
Rs 48,000 crore	
7 frigates under P-17A	

- ❖ It is the first of the Navy's seven new stealth frigates under Project 17A.
- ❖ Project 17A frigates is a design derivative of the Shivalik class stealth frigates.
- ❖ They have much more advanced stealth features and indigenous weapons and sensors.

10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029)

- ❖ The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) Ministry of Jal Shakti, has launched the 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029).
- ❖ The strategy focuses on sustaining the sanitation behaviour change that has been achieved under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM – G).

Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus

- ❖ The 10-year strategy lays down a framework to guide local governments, policy makers, implementers and other stakeholders in their planning for Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus.
- ❖ ODF Plus aims for universal usage of toilet and access to solid and liquid waste management for every village.

CPGRAMS reforms in Department of Posts

- ❖ Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh unveiled the Centralised Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) reforms in Department of Posts.
- ❖ The new CPGRAMS 7.0 version by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) can be accessed through www.pgportal.nic.in.
- ❖ It is the platform which receives, redresses and monitors grievances from the public.
- ❖ It will cut processing time by 50% in the Department of Posts.



7th World Hindu Economic Forum 2019

- ❖ A 3-day event of 7th World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) 2019 held at Mumbai.
- ❖ Theme of the Forum is “Prosperous Society: Stronger Society”.
- ❖ It aims to bring together financially successful members in Hindu society such as such as traders, bankers, technocrats, investors, industrialists to share business knowledge, expertise and resources with their fellow members.



Top plastic exporter

- ❖ Gujarat has emerged as a leader in plastic exports from India with a big share of 45% in the national exports.
- ❖ 60% of India's total exports come from Gujarat and Maharashtra, which are followed by Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and the Union territories of Daman and Diu as well as Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- ❖ Being the 17th largest plastic exporter in the world, India exported US\$8 billion worth plastic goods in the financial year 2019.

STATE-WISE PLASTIC EXPORTS

State	Exports (USD/bn)	Annual growth (%)
Gujarat	3.6	33
Maharashtra	1.3	8
West Bengal	0.60	39
Tamil Nadu	0.26	4

Source: Drip Capital



INTERNATIONAL

Largest Movable Metal Structure – Chernobyl

- ❖ Ukraine has inaugurated a new metal dome which encases the destroyed reactor at the infamous Chernobyl Nuclear plant.
- ❖ The dome has been named as New Safe Confinement.
- ❖ It is the world's largest movable metal structure.
- ❖ The Chernobyl nuclear power in Soviet Russia station saw the world's worst civilian nuclear accident on April 26, 1986.
- ❖ Hundreds of people died and 3,50,000 people were evacuated.



Safe Cities Index (SCI) 2019

- ❖ The Safe Cities Index (SCI) 2019 by Economist Intelligence Unit has been released.
- ❖ It ranks 60 countries worldwide across five continents and measures the multi-faceted nature of urban safety, with indicators categorised as digital, infrastructure, health and personal security.
- ❖ Cities in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region made up six of the top -10 safest cities with Tokyo taking the top spot.
- ❖ Mumbai has been ranked as the 45th safest city on the Safe Cities Index (SCI), while Delhi stood at the 52nd position.

Tokyo safest city, Delhi at 52nd: study

Tokyo is the safest city on the planet for the third year in a row, and six of the world's top 10 safest cities in the world are located in the Asia-Pacific, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's Safe Cities Index released on Thursday. Mumbai and Delhi rank low in the index even as the study points out that India and China will see the fastest rise in population—of 1.4%—over the next decade. The index ranks 60 countries across five continents and measures on urban safety indicators such as digital, infrastructure, health and personal security.



OVERALL SCORE

RANK	1	2	45	52	59	60
City	Tokyo	Singapore	Mumbai	New Delhi	Caracas	Lagos



DIGITAL SECURITY

1	Tokyo
2	Singapore
47	Mumbai
47	New Delhi
59	Ho Chi Minh City
60	Yangon



HEALTH SECURITY

1	Osaka
2	Tokyo
50	Mumbai
51	New Delhi
59	Karachi
60	Lagos



INFRA SECURITY

1	Singapore
2	Osaka
50	Mumbai
57	New Delhi
59	Dhaka
60	Caracas



PERSONAL SECURITY

1	Singapore
2	Copenhagen
37	Mumbai
41	New Delhi
59	Caracas
60	Lagos

Africa on brink of eliminating Polio

- ❖ According to the World Health Organization (WHO) Africa is on the verge of being declared polio free.
- ❖ There were no recorded cases of the disease for the last three years (since 2016).
- ❖ If no more incidences emerge in the next few months, Africa could officially be declared polio free in 2020.
- ❖ Polio is still endemic in Pakistan and Afghanistan and will need to be eradicated there before the world can be declared polio free.

US Space Warfare Command

- ❖ United States (US) President Donald Trump has launched the world's first Space Command.
- ❖ The combat unit aims to protect American satellites and space assets from being attacked or destroyed by hostile nations.
- ❖ Gen John W Raymond is the commander of the US Space Command.

Indonesian Capital Shifted

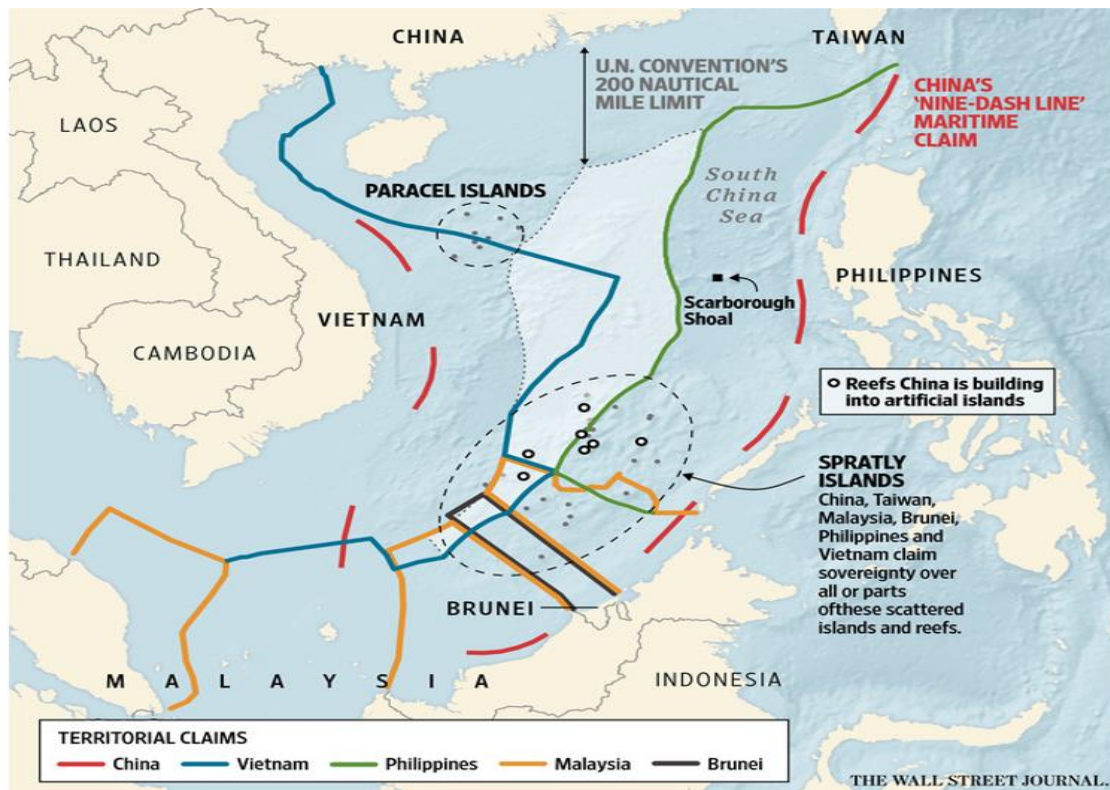
- ❖ Indonesia's president Joko Widodo has announced that his country's national capital will move from Jakarta (on the island of Java) to the province of East Kalimantan (on the island of Borneo).
- ❖ Reasons cited: 10 million population, air pollution, traffic congestion, poor city planning which has left 40% of the city below sea level.
- ❖ Kalimantan is also much more central in Indonesia's archipelago of 17,000 islands.
- ❖ Borneo is the third-largest island in the world and the largest in Asia.
- ❖ The island is politically divided among three countries: Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia.
- ❖ Kalimantan is in the Indonesian portion of the island of Borneo. It comprises 73% of the island's area.



The Economist

ASEAN – US Maritime Exercise

- ❖ For the first time, eight warships, four aircraft and more than 1,000 personnel from the United States and 10 Southeast Asian countries will join for the ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise (AUMX).
- ❖ The 5-day exercise starts at Sattahip Naval Base, Thailand and ends in Singapore.
- ❖ Context: This exercise comes at a time of heightened tension over South China Sea between China and South East Asian Countries (Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines).



Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria

- ❖ India has announced contribution of \$22 million to Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFTAM) for 6th Replenishment Cycle (for year 2020-22).
- ❖ Global Fund is the world's largest financier of AIDS, TB, and malaria prevention, treatment, and care programs.
- ❖ India shares a sustained partnership with Global Fund since 2002 both as recipient and as a donor.
- ❖ Headquarters: Switzerland.

Hong Kong: Extradition Bill Withdrawn

- ❖ Chief Executive of Hong Kong, Carrie Lam has said she will withdraw the controversial "extradition bill".
- ❖ Introduction of the bill in April 2019 triggered the current three months of unprecedented "pro-democracy" rallies in the country.
- ❖ The proposed bill would have allowed criminal suspects to be extradited to mainland China.



About

- ❖ Hong Kong became a colony of the British Empire after Qing Dynasty of China “ceded” Hong Kong Island at the end of the First Opium War in 1842.
- ❖ With additional territories, Britain obtained a 99-year lease of the New Territories in 1898.
- ❖ The territory was transferred to China in 1997.
- ❖ The Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong maintains separate governing and economic systems from that of mainland China under the "one country, two systems".

Pakistan’s Ghaznavi Missile – Night training Launch

- ❖ Pakistan has successfully test-fired nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Ghaznavi from Sonmiani test range near Karachi.
- ❖ It has also carried out the night training launch of the surface to surface ballistic missile.
- ❖ The Ghaznavi is a short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
- ❖ It is capable of delivering different types of warheads including nuclear and conventional up to a range of 290 km.

TSENTR 2019 – War Games in Russia

- ❖ Indian army will participate in a multilateral large-scale war exercise “TSENTR 2019” to be held in Russia.
- ❖ The exercise is scheduled to take place between September 9 to 23 at Donguz training ranges in Russia's Orenburg.



- ❖ Armies of Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Russia will also participate in the exercise.
- ❖ This will be the first time that forces from India and Pakistan will participate in a multilateral exercise together since the Balakot airstrikes conducted by Indian forces.



Controlling Fake News

- ❖ BBC and other major publishers, Google, Twitter and Facebook have come together and announced a series of measures to tackle "fake news".
- ❖ Fake news are "news stories that have no factual basis but are presented as news".
- ❖ Under this collaboration, news and technology majors will work together to protect their audiences and users from disinformation, particularly around crucial events such as elections.



2019 South Asian Parliamentary conference

- ❖ The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) along with the parliament of Sri-Lanka conducted the two-day long 2019 UNICEF South Asian Parliamentary conference on Children Rights Convention.
- ❖ It was held at the Colombo city.
- ❖ The meeting aims to discuss the issues faced by children and on the challenges to improve the child rights.
- ❖ It also celebrates the 30th anniversary of the adoption of convention of the rights of the child.
- ❖ This is the 3rd convention conducted by UNICEF with parliamentarians for children.



Hurricane Dorian: Aiding Bahamas

- ❖ India has announced an immediate humanitarian assistance of \$1 million to help people in the Bahamas affected by Hurricane Dorian.
- ❖ It was an extremely powerful and destructive Category 5 hurricane.
- ❖ It was the first major hurricane of 2019 Atlantic hurricane season.

About

- ❖ The Bahamas was formerly a British colony and became an independent country within the Commonwealth in 1973.

24th World Energy Congress, Abu Dhabi

- ❖ The 24th World Energy Congress commenced in Abu Dhabi under the patronage of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ 150 countries participate in this triennial congress.
- ❖ It was started in 1924.



- ❖ It is the world's largest and most influential energy event covering all aspects of the energy agenda.
- ❖ The theme of this 2019 World Energy Congress is "Energy for Prosperity".

8th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable

- ❖ United Arab Emirates hosted the 8th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER8) on 10 September 2019.
- ❖ India is the co-host along with UAE at the AMER8 event.
- ❖ India is represented by Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- ❖ The meet discusses:
 - Role of new technologies for a more competitive and productive world energy mix.
 - Advancing inclusive access to secure, affordable, and sustainable energy services.

Plain Cigarette Packing – Thailand

- ❖ Thailand became the first Asian country to roll out plain cigarette packaging.
- ❖ Such packaging
 - reduces the attractiveness of tobacco products
 - eliminates tobacco packaging as a form of advertising
 - increases the noticeability and effectiveness of pictorial health warnings.



- ❖ In 2012, Australia became the first country to require tobacco products to be sold without colourful brand logos.



Global Antimicrobial Resistance R&D Hub: India

- ❖ India has joined the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub as a new member.
- ❖ The Global AMR R&D Hub was launched in May 2018 on the margins of the 71st session of the World Health Assembly.
- ❖ This is a new initiative aimed at promoting research into combating antimicrobial resistance.
- ❖ It is mainly funded by German government and the secretariat is at Berlin.

Drone Attack on Saudi Oil Fields

- ❖ Houthi rebels from Yemen have carried out drone attacks on two major Saudi Aramco oil facilities, in Abqaiq and Hijrat Khurais in Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ Abqaiq oil processing facility which is operated by Saudi Aramco in Buqyaq, Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil processing facility.
- ❖ Due to this attack, Saudi Arabia has cut down nearly 50% of its oil output.

Digital Economy Report 2019

- ❖ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released a report titled 'Digital Economy Report (DER) 2019'.
- ❖ DER was formerly known as the Information Economy Report.
- ❖ It examines the scope for value creation and capture in the digital economy by developing countries.

Highlights of the report

- ❖ The ICT sector is the largest in Taiwan Province of China, Ireland, and Malaysia.
- ❖ The global computer services industry is dominated by the United States.
- ❖ India has the largest share among developing countries in the computer services industry.
- ❖ Also, India ranked fourth in terms of growth in the share of the ICT sector's value-added in GDP between 2010 and 2017.
- ❖ In "Share of ICT services in total exports of services: Top 20 countries, 2017", India ranked 2nd which is topped by Ireland. India is the largest developing-country exporter of such services.
- ❖ The three of the largest producers of telecommunication services are developing countries, namely China, India, and Brazil.

22nd Session of UN Committee on CRPD

- ❖ The 22nd edition of United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) was held at UNHRC in Geneva from 2nd & 3rd September 2019.
- ❖ In this session, the UN Committee on CRPD took up India's Report on 'Status of Disability in India' for consideration.
- ❖ An Indian delegation was headed by Mrs. Shakuntala D. Gamlin (Secretary of DEPwD).
- ❖ India ratified this Convention on 1st October 2017 in pursuance of Article 35 of the Convention.



Vaccine hesitancy – Threat to Global Health

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has included 'vaccine hesitancy' as one of the 10 threats to global health for the year 2019.
- ❖ Vaccine hesitancy means the reluctance or refusal to vaccinate despite the availability of vaccines.
- ❖ Vaccine hesitancy threatens to reverse progress made in tackling vaccine-preventable diseases.
- ❖ Example: Measles has seen a 30% increase in cases globally in 2018.

- ❖ Ten threats to global health in 2019 according to WHO are:
 - Air pollution and climate change
 - Noncommunicable diseases
 - Global influenza pandemic
 - Fragile and vulnerable settings
 - Antimicrobial resistance
 - Ebola and other high-threat pathogens
 - Weak primary health care
 - Vaccine hesitancy
 - Dengue
 - HIV

Daxing Airport – Beijing’s Mega Airport

- ❖ China will open a new mega airport on the eve of 70th anniversary of Communist Party rule.
- ❖ Beijing Daxing International Airport is an addition to the already existing world’s second busiest Beijing airport.
- ❖ Beijing Capital International airport handled 100 million passengers in 2018.
- ❖ World’s No.1 busiest airport is at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta, USA.
- ❖ Daxing airport is nicknamed as ‘Starfish’ for its shape. The design minimises distance between security checks and gates.
- ❖ The earthquake-proof airport has a train station located directly beneath it.



Tiger Deaths at Thailand Temple

- ❖ More than half the tigers rescued three years ago from a Buddhist temple in Thailand have died of disease.
- ❖ Tiger Temple, or Wat Pha Luang Ta Bua Yanasampanno, was a Theravada Buddhist Temple at Thailand.

First Arab in Space

- ❖ A Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur space centre, Kazakhstan carried an Emirati to the International Space Station (ISS).
- ❖ He will make history as the first Arab on the International Space Station.
- ❖ Hazzaa al-Mansoori of the United Arab Emirates is accompanied by Russia's Oleg Skripochka and NASA astronaut Jessica Meir in his flight to the ISS.
- ❖ ISS is a rare example of cooperation between Russia and the West.
- ❖ It has been orbiting Earth at about 28,000 kilometres (17,000 miles) per hour since 1998.



UK Supreme Court – Suspension of Parliament Unlawful

- ❖ In a unanimous decision, the UK Supreme Court has ruled the “suspension of parliament of Britain” unlawful.
- ❖ Earlier British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had decided to shut down Parliament for five weeks in the run-up to Brexit (October 31).



- ❖ He announced the shut down because he his government had lost majority in the House of Commons, Britain's lower house of the parliament.
- ❖ UK Parliament had been "prorogued" by The Queen on the advice of Prime Minister Boris Johnson from September 10 to October 14.
- ❖ It is now cancelled and the Speaker of Parliament and the House of Lords will decide further steps regarding Brexit.

Tripartite Agreement on Rohingyas

- ❖ Three countries have agreed to put in place a tripartite mechanism to monitor and assess on-the-ground preparations for repatriation of the displaced Rohingya people.
- ❖ They are
 - Bangladesh
 - China
 - Myanmar
- ❖ Two attempts of Rohingya repatriation have failed.
- ❖ They are unwilling to go back to their place of origin amid lack of required conditions in Rakhine State for their return.

About

- ❖ The Rohingya people are a stateless Indo-Aryan ethnic group who reside in Rakhine State, Myanmar.
- ❖ Most of them follow Islam with a Hindu minority.
- ❖ They were persecuted by Myanmar's government and have took refuge in various countries, including Bangladesh, China, India.
- ❖ In 2013, United Nations described Rohingyas as one of the most persecuted minorities.

21st FAO-WHO Coordinating Committee of Asia for 2019

- ❖ The 21st session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) Coordinating Committee of Asia for 2019 was held at Goa.
- ❖ It was the second session of the Coordinating Committee in Asia.
- ❖ The aim of the session was to identify issues and explore best practices in food safety at primary production in the region and delegates from 18 member countries participated in the session.



- ❖ It was organized by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in collaboration with the WHO and FAO of the United Nations (UN).



8th continent - “Greater Adria”

- ❖ Geologists from Netherlands, have discovered a new continent named “Greater Adria” in the Mediterranean region under Europe.
- ❖ This Greater Adria island is a piece of continental crust in the size of Greenland.
- ❖ It once separated from North Africa and plunged into the Earth’s mantle under Southern Europe.
- ❖ It took Greater Adria 120 million years to be found by mankind.
- ❖ The only remaining part of this continent is a strip that runs from Turin, Italy via the Adriatic Sea in the Italian peninsula, hence the name “Greater Adria”.





ECONOMY

5th Eastern Economic Forum

- ❖ PM Narendra Modi has been invited as the chief guest of the 5th Eastern Economic Forum (September 4 – 6) in Vladivostok by Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- ❖ It was established in 2015 by Russia and takes place each year in Vladivostok.
- ❖ This international forum is held for the purpose of encouraging foreign investment in the resource rich-Russian Far East.

Swiss and India: Automatic Exchange of Information

- ❖ The Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) regime kicked off between Switzerland and India from September 1, 2019.
- ❖ With this, banking details of Indians with accounts in Switzerland will be available to Indian tax authorities.
- ❖ India will receive information of the calendar year 2018 in respect of all financial accounts held (or closed) by Indian residents in Switzerland.
- ❖ AEOI is the exchange of information between countries without having to request it.
- ❖ India and Switzerland had signed AEOI on November 22, 2016

Performance of 8 Core Sectors

- ❖ According to official data released by the government, Growth of eight core industries dropped to 2.1% in July mainly due to a contraction in coal, crude oil, natural gas and refinery products.
- ❖ Eight Core Industries are

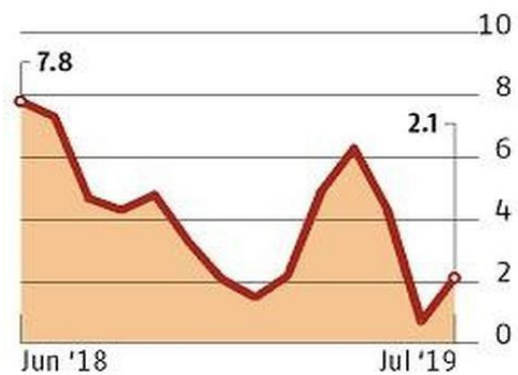
1. Coal	2. Crude Oil
3. Cement	4. Steel
5. Fertilisers	6. Electricity
7. Natural gas	8. Refinery Products

- ❖ They have a 40.27% weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- ❖ IIP is a “key economic indicator” of the manufacturing sector of the economy.
- ❖ IIP data is compiled and published by Central Statistical Organisation every month.

4 OF 8 SECTORS SHOW CONTRACTION

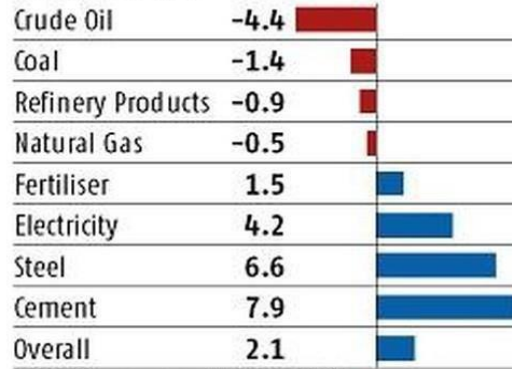
Core sector growth
in the last 1 year

(YoY, % change)



Sector wise growth for July

YoY growth (%)

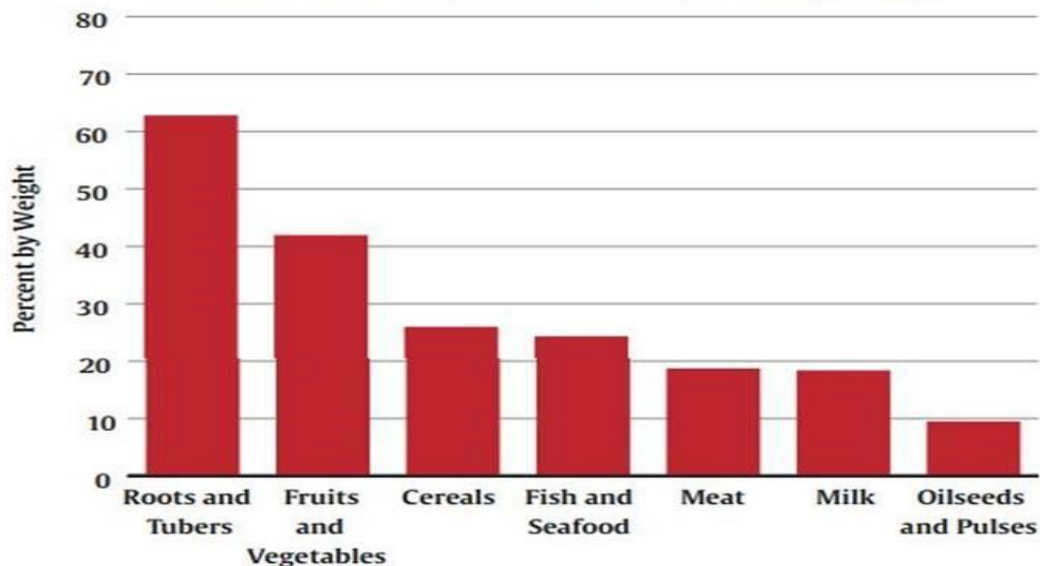


Source: Commerce and Industry Ministry

Reducing Food Loss and Waste Report

- ❖ A new report titled “Reducing Food Loss and Waste” by the World Resources Institute (WRI) with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation has “quantified” global food wastage.
- ❖ Nearly one-third of the food that is produced globally each year goes uneaten (Cost: \$940 billion).
- ❖ Uneaten food is responsible for emitting about 8 % of greenhouse gases.

SHARE OF FOOD GROUP LOST OR WASTED (2007)



Source: WRI analysis based on FAO (2011).



6th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue

- ❖ The 6th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) is being held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Indian side will be led by Niti Aayog Vice Chairman and the Chinese side by Chairman of National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC).
- ❖ The bilateral trade between the countries stood at USD 87 billion in 2018-19.
- ❖ The trade deficit stood at USD 50 billion in favour of China.

Aadhaar Enabled Payment System Services: India Post Payments Bank

- ❖ Union Government has announced the official rollout of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System Services by India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).
- ❖ IPPB has become the single largest platform in the country for providing interoperable banking services to customers of any bank.
- ❖ It is due to its extensive last mile connectivity of post offices.

About

- ❖ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) is a 100% government owned payments bank operating under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications.
- ❖ It was founded on 1 September, 2018.

Gold Reserves of India

- ❖ India has pipped the Netherlands to move into the list of top ten countries in terms of total gold reserves.
- ❖ According to the World Gold Council, India has gold reserves totalling 618.2 tonnes and stands at 10th spot.
- ❖ U.S. leads the list with total gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes, followed by Germany with 3,366.8 tonnes.
- ❖ The International Monetary Fund is ranked third with a holding of 2,451.8 tonnes.



TOP 10 COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST GOLD RESERVES, 2019



RANK	COUNTRY	GOLD RESERVES (IN US\$)	(IN METRIC TONNES)
1	UNITED STATES	\$334.5 BILLION	8,133
2	GERMANY	\$138.6 BILLION	3,370
3	ITALY	\$100.8 BILLION	2,452
4	FRANCE	\$100.2 BILLION	2,436
5	RUSSIA	\$86.9 BILLION	2,113
6	CHINA	\$76.2 BILLION	1,853
7	SWITZERLAND	\$42.8 BILLION	1,040
8	JAPAN	\$31.5 BILLION	765
9	NETHERLANDS	\$25.2 BILLION	612
10	INDIA	\$24.7 BILLION	600

Source: CEOWORLD magazine

License Requirement Rules Relaxed – Manufacturing Sector

- ❖ Commerce Ministry has announced that no compulsory licence would be required for manufacturers of goods, barring four segments namely:
 - Cigars and Cigarettes of tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes
 - Electronic aerospace and defence equipment
 - Industrial Explosives
 - Hazardous chemical
- ❖ Also, no industrial/arms licence is required for the manufacturer of any parts or accessories in the defence sector, unless specifically listed for procuring licences.
- ❖ Government has relaxed licensing rules for manufacturers as a part of government's effort to remove the licence raj and ensure ease of doing business.

Tax Reduction for Corporates

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced big cuts in corporate tax rates.
- ❖ She has announced a ₹1.45 lakh crore stimulus aimed at reviving private investment and lifting growth from a six-year low.

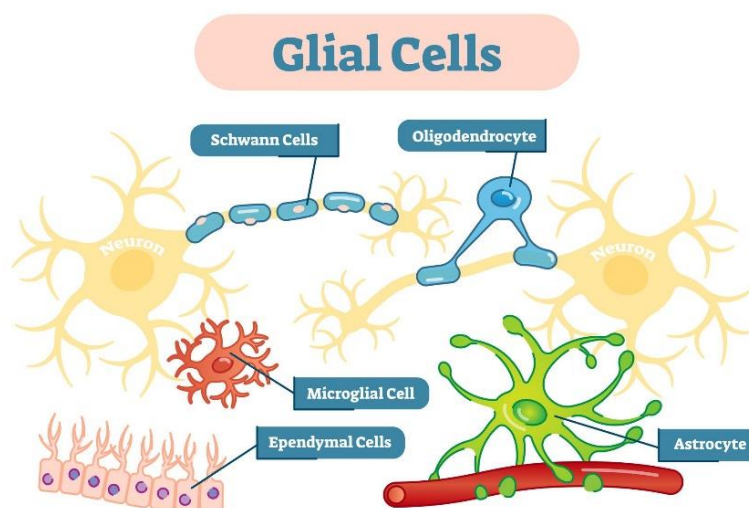
Type of Company	Rate
Basic corporate rate tax for domestic companies that don't avail any exemption/incentive.	Reduced to 22% from 30%. Effective Tax Rate: 25.17%
Domestic companies incorporated on or after 1st October 2019 making fresh investment in manufacturing.	Reduced to 15% from 25%

- ❖ Minimum Alternate Tax or MAT reduced to 15% from 18%.
- ❖ Surcharge on Capital Gains is withdrawn.
- ❖ Total revenue foregone for the reduction in corporate tax rate and other relief are estimated to be at 1.45 lakh crore rupees.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

New Pain Sensing Organ Discovered in Skin

- ❖ Researchers have discovered a new sensory organ in the skin that is able to detect painful mechanical damage, such as pricks and impacts.
- ❖ Organ responsible for pain: Glia Cells
- ❖ This is an advance that may help develop novel painkillers.
- ❖ The discovery is being published in the journal 'Science'.



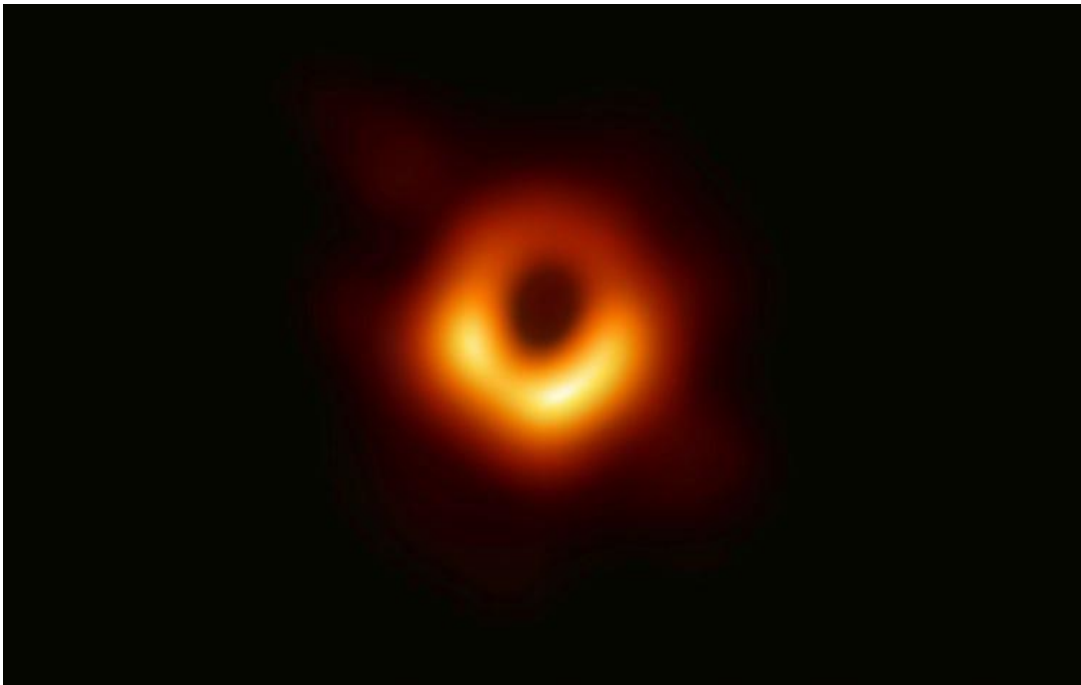


4th Internet of Things (IoT) Congress: Bengaluru

- ❖ The 4th edition of the Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress 2019 held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ The theme of this edition is 'Mainstreaming the Internet of Things'.
- ❖ It is the India's largest confluence of digital technology.

Oscars of science Award

- ❖ The Event Horizon Telescope Team consisting of 347 scientists who produced the world's first image of a black hole were felicitated with breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics.
- ❖ The prize is known as the "Oscars of science", with prize money \$3 million.
- ❖ The team had published the image of black hole circled by a flame-orange halo of white-hot plasma on the Messier 87 (M87) galaxy on April 10, 2019.



Odisha Craniopagus Twins Separated

- ❖ India's only successfully separated craniopagus twins from Odisha — Jagga and Balia have been successfully rehabilitated under the care of AIIMS, Delhi.
- ❖ The two toddlers were born with fused brain and skull, a condition known as craniopagus.

- ❖ They were operated and kept under observation since 2017.
- ❖ Worldwide only 10-15 children have survived after surgical separation of this condition in the last 50 years.



Vikram Lander

- ❖ Scientists at the Space Physics Laboratory (SPL), Trivandrum are continuing their efforts to establish contact with Vikram, the lander on the Chandrayaan-2.
- ❖ Out of the total 14 payloads aboard Chandrayaan-2, four are from the SPL.

About

- ❖ SPL is a premier science laboratory of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.
- ❖ It carries out research on the lower and upper atmospheres, ionospheres and magnetospheres of the Earth and other solar system bodies.

Bombay blood group

- ❖ Recently, the demand for the “Bombay blood group” has coincidentally spiked at Mumbai’s hospitals but supply has been scarce.
- ❖ The rare Bombay blood group was first discovered in Bombay in 1952 by Dr Y M Bhende.
- ❖ It is also called “hh” blood group.



- ❖ It is deficient in expressing antigen H, i.e. the RBC has no antigen H.

Blood Groups (Antigens and Antibodies)		
Blood Group	Antigens	Antibodies
A	A,H	B
B	B,H	A
AB	A,B,H	-
O	H	A,B
Bombay Blood Group	-	A,B,H

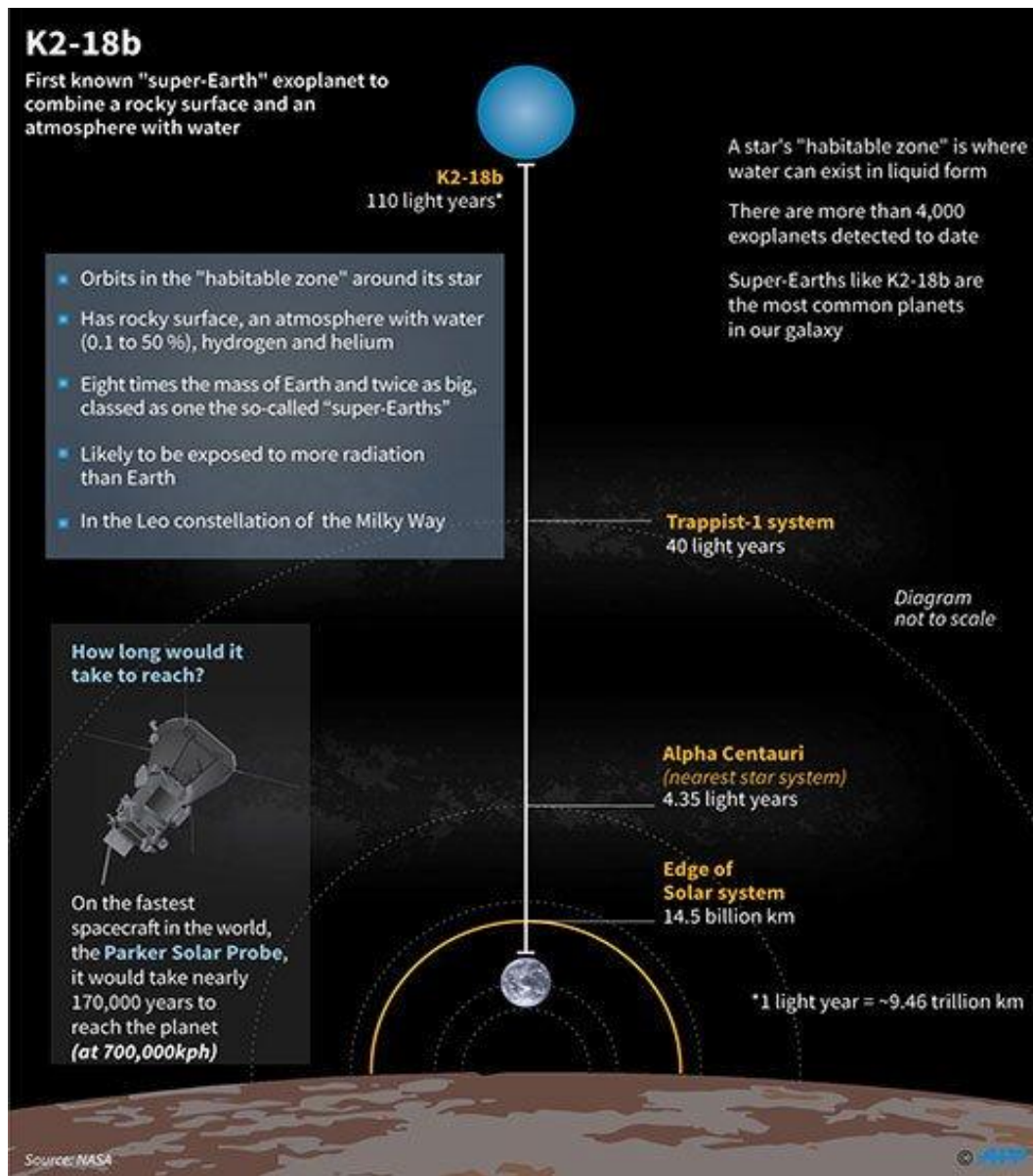
- ❖ Individuals of this blood group can only be transfused with autologous blood or blood from individuals of Bombay hh phenotype only which is very rare.
- ❖ It is so rare that it is found only in 1 in 40,00,000 lakh persons.

Why is Bombay Blood Group Unique

- ❖ All blood groups (O, A, B, AB) have antigen H in the blood.
- ❖ But very few people do not have antigen H.
- ❖ Instead they have “antibody” H because of which no other blood can be given to them.

Water Vapour in Outer Space

- ❖ Astronomers have for the first time discovered “water vapour” in the atmosphere of a distant planet called K2-18b.



- ❖ Data from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope was used to make the discovery.
- ❖ K2-18b has an atmosphere and it has water in it, thus making it the only exoplanet known to have both water and temperatures that could support life.
- ❖ It orbits a red dwarf star 110 light-years away from Earth in the Leo constellation of the Milky Way.
- ❖ It is 8 times the mass of earth and twice as big.
- ❖ It is known as a super-Earth, or exoplanets between the mass of Earth and Neptune.

New satellites of china

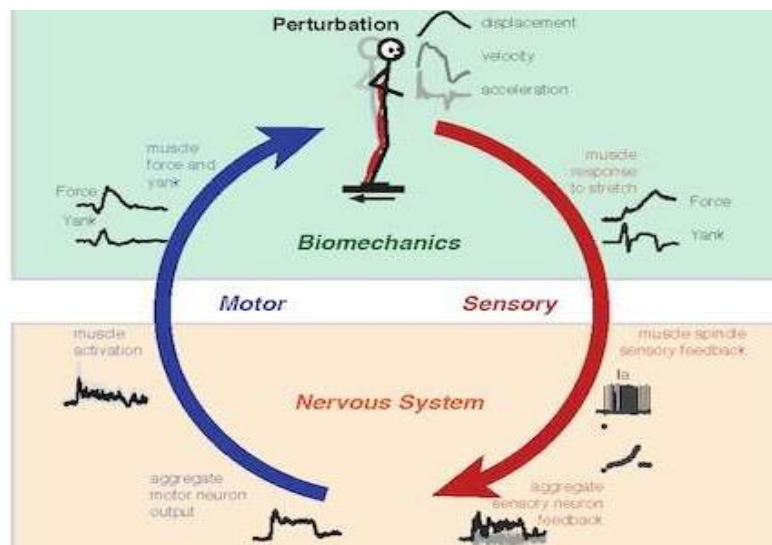
- ❖ China has successfully launched three satellites viz., a resource satellite- ZY-1 02D and two small satellites.
- ❖ These were launched by a long march-4B carrier rocket (310th mission).
- ❖ The resource satellite will provide data by monitoring natural resource asset management, ecological monitoring, disaster prevention and control, environmental protection, urban construction, transportation, and contingency management.
- ❖ One of the 2 small satellites called BNU-1 will primarily monitor polar climate.

Southeast Asia's largest solar power farm

- ❖ Vietnam has inaugurated Southeast Asia's largest solar power farm called 'Dau Tieng Solar Power Complex'.
- ❖ It spread over 540 hectares in Tay Ninh province and having the capacity to generate 688 million kWh (kilowatt-hour) of electricity annually.
- ❖ This solar complex is constructed on the Dau Tieng Reservoir, the largest artificial lake in Vietnam.
- ❖ It will also avert the emission of 595,000 tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every year.

New Scientific Term: Yank

- ❖ Biologists and biomedical engineers are proposing to define a new term to measure any changes in force over time, called "Yank".





- ❖ Defining “Yank” will be useful to know better about human muscle behaviour.
- ❖ ‘Yank’ could be useful in better understanding of spasticity, a common muscle impairment in multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, stroke and cerebral palsy.

Human Space Mission: ISRO and DRDO

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) joined hands with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the development of human-centric systems for the Human Space Mission.
- ❖ The collaboration is to demonstrate their human space flight capabilities.
- ❖ They will demonstrate human spaceflight capability before the 75th anniversary of India’s independence in 2022.

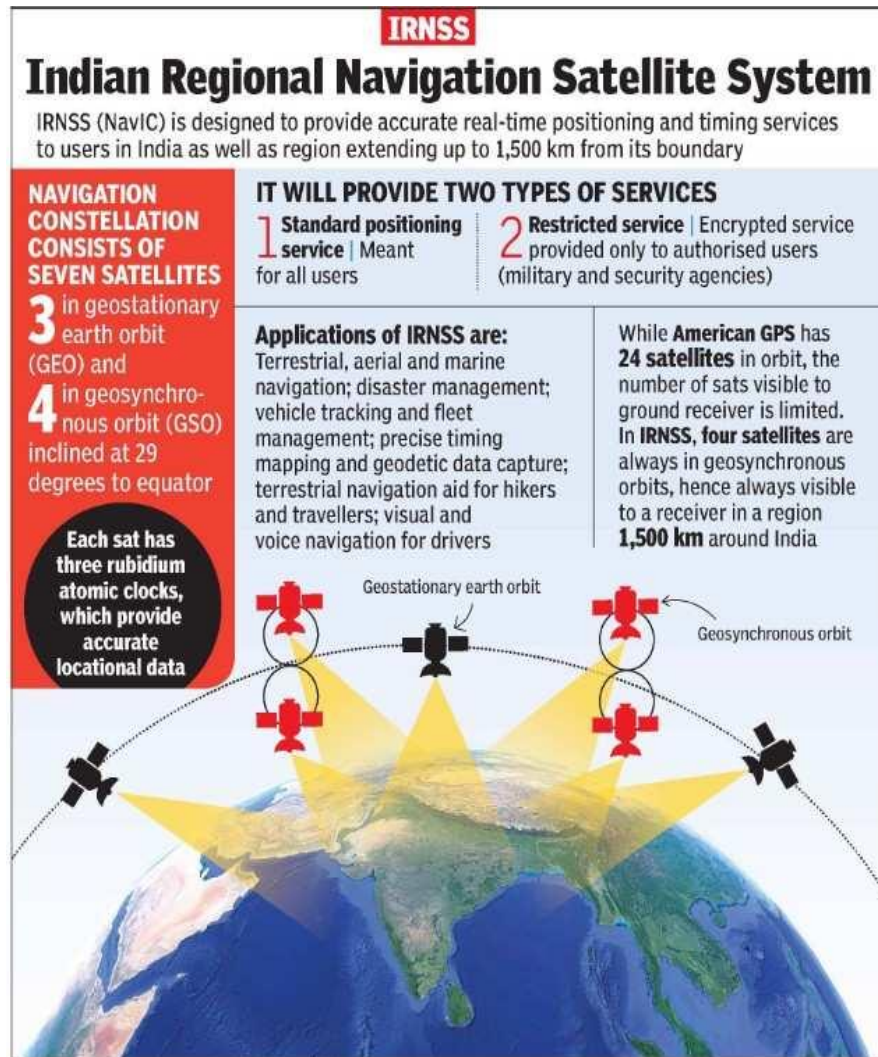
India's first Digital Capability Centre (DCC)

- ❖ The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) has selected McKinsey & Company to set up India's first Digital Capability Centre (DCC).
- ❖ It will showcase advanced technologies and provide a test bed for emerging innovations.
- ❖ DCC is a unique digital manufacturing learning centre.
- ❖ It will be offering company leaders and their workforces’ hands- on experience and workshops in next generation technology.
- ❖ McKinsey supports only five such digital capability centres across the globe – Aachen, Chicago, Singapore, Venice, and Beijing.

NaVIC Approved for Use in Mobiles

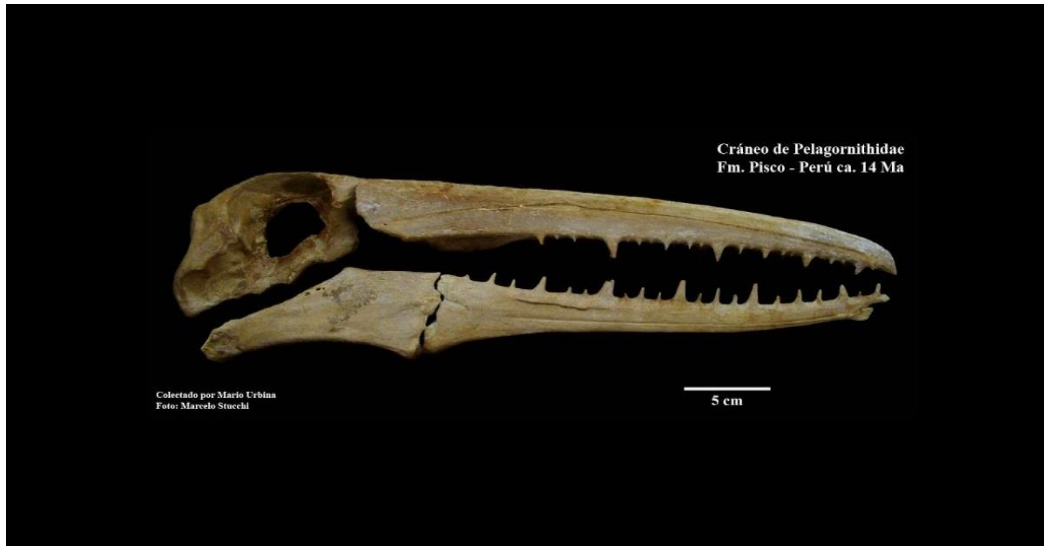
- ❖ Global standards body 3GPP which develops protocols for mobile telephony, has approved India’s regional navigation system NaVIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).
- ❖ NaVIC was developed by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ❖ IRNSS or NavIC is capable of providing accurate position information service to users across India and the region extending up to 1,500 km around the country.
- ❖ NavIC acceptance by 3GPP would bring NavIC technology to the commercial market for its use in 4G, 5G and Internet of Things (IoT).
- ❖ Manufacturers can now mass-produce navigation devices compatible with NaVIC so that users of these devices can easily access desi GPS or NaVIC signals.

- ❖ 3GPP currently has global navigation satellite system support from BDS (Chinese), Galileo (European), GLONASS (Russian) & GPS (US) for cellular positioning systems.



Bony Toothed Birds - Pelagornithids

- ❖ Scientists have discovered fossils of one of the world's oldest bird species in New Zealand.
- ❖ They had lived about 62 million years ago, soon after the dinosaurs died.
- ❖ The newly-discovered seabird fossil is named as Protodontopteryx ruthae.
- ❖ Earlier, bony toothed birds were thought to originate from Northern Hemisphere.
- ❖ It is now proven wrong because of this fossil from New Zealand.

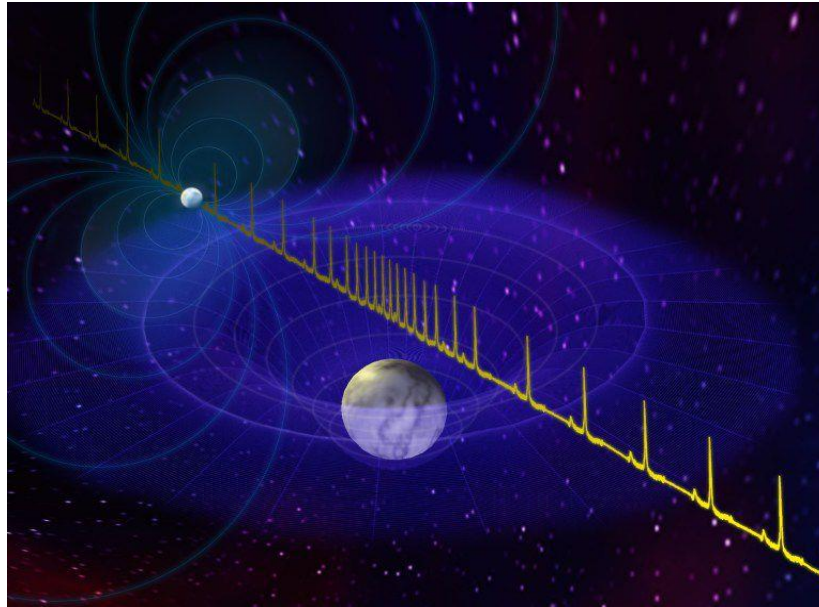


Most Massive Neutron Star - J0740+6620

- ❖ Astronomers observing a distant star system have identified what may be the most massive neutron star ever discovered.
- ❖ Neutron stars like the newly discovered J0740+6620 are the remains of dead stars.
- ❖ Stars run for millions or billions of years but eventually run out of fuel.
- ❖ Then they become one of the three
 - Smaller stars become white dwarfs (like Sun)
 - Larger stars collapse into black holes
 - Stars with mass equivalent to 8 and 29 solar mass become Neutron Stars

About J0740+6620

- ❖ MSP J0740+6620 is about 2.14 times more massive than sun.
- ❖ But it is less than 15 miles in diameter.
- ❖ The mass is determined using a principle called “Shapiro time delay”.
- ❖ Because of the extreme density of MSP J0740+6620 it might soon collapse into a black hole.



World's Biggest Transport Space Ship - For ISS

- ❖ Japan has successfully launched an unmanned spacecraft towards the International Space Station.
- ❖ JAXA's (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) H-2B rocket lifted off with the cargo vessel Kounotori 8.
- ❖ It has declared that the Kounotori8 (also known as HTV-8) as "the world's biggest transport space ship."

India's first Indigenous Fuel Cell

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has unveiled India's first indigenous high temperature fuel cell system.
- ❖ It can meet the requirement of efficient, clean and reliable backup power generator for telecom towers, remote locations and strategic applications.
- ❖ This 5.0 kW fuel cell system generates power in a green manner using methanol/bio-methane.
- ❖ It has the potential to replace diesel generating (DG) sets and help in reducing air pollution.
- ❖ Developed by: CSIR-NCL, Pune, CSIR-NPL, New Delhi & CSIR-CECRI, Karaikudi in collaboration with 3 private players.
- ❖ Applications: Small offices, commercial units and data centers.



New mineral discovery

- ❖ Researchers from University of Alberta's Diamond Exploration Research and Training School, Canada discovered a new mineral named 'Goldschmidtite' - O₃.
- ❖ It was discovered inside a diamond from a mine - Koffiefontein pipe in South Africa run by De Beers.
- ❖ It is named goldschmidtite in honor of Victor Moritz Goldschmidt, the founder of modern geochemistry.
- ❖ It was estimated that the mineral was formed about 170 kilometers beneath Earth's surface, at temperatures reaching nearly 1200° C.

New Jupiter like planet - GJ 3512 b

- ❖ Astronomers discovered a gas giant Jupiter-like planet named "GJ 3512 b".
- ❖ It is a giant planet with a mass about half as big as Jupiter's.
- ❖ It is orbiting a dwarf star, located about 30 light-years from the sun.
- ❖ The red dwarf star has a mass about 12% of the sun.
- ❖ According to current theories, this planet shouldn't exist.

MYSTERY EXOPLANET

The planet GJ 3512b is not supposed to exist. It's so big compared to its star that it can't have formed in the way we think most planets do.

GJ 3512	GJ 3512b
● Red dwarf star	● Gas giant planet
● Mass 12% of Sun's	● Mass 46% of Jupiter's
● 31 light-years from Earth	● 204-day orbit



Second interstellar object - 2I/Borisov

- ❖ According to the International Astronomical Union (IAU), a second interstellar object named 2I/Borisov has been discovered in the solar system.
- ❖ It was discovered by astronomer Gennady Borisov from MARGO observatory, Crimea.
- ❖ It looked like a comet from a 0.65-metre telescope built on his own.
- ❖ It has an orbit as hyperbolic.
- ❖ It was formerly known as C/2019 Q4.
- ❖ The first interstellar object was 1I/Oumuamua.
- ❖ An interstellar object is an astronomical object- an asteroid, comet or possibly planet, but not a star or substar which is located in interstellar space.

ENVIRONMENT

CAMPA Funds – Afforestation Program

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Environment has released Rs 47,436 crore of CAMPA funds to various states for afforestation projects.
- ❖ The Supreme Court ordered for the establishment of Compensatory Afforestation Fund and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) in 2001.

ABOUT CAMPA FUND

➤ The Campa fund is a national-level corpus fund where the compensation amount collected from user agencies like industries when forestland is diverted for non-forest purposes is deposited



➤ Fund is to be utilized for compensatory afforestation activities, protection of forests, forest-related infrastructure development, assisted natural regeneration of forests, etc.

- ❖ This fund to state aims to give a boost to forestry activities and increase forest and tree cover.
- ❖ The increase in forest and tree cover will create an additional carbon sink equivalent to 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by the year 2030.

Flat performance			(in million tonnes)		
	2017-18 (Final)	2018-19 (3 rd Estimates)		2017-18 (Final)	2018-19 (3 rd Estimates)
Veg crops			Fruit crops		
Potato	51.31	53.03	Banana	30.81	31.75
Onions	23.26	23.49	Mango	21.82	20.8
Tomato	19.76	19.40	Citrus crops	12.55	13.2
Brinjal	12.8	12.66	Papaya	5.99	5.98
Cabbage	9.04	9.10	Pomegranate	2.85	3.03
Cauliflower	8.67	9.10	Apple	2.33	2.50
Okra	6.10	6.17			
Total¹	184.39	185.88	Total¹	97.36	98.58
			Plantation and spices crops		
			Coconut	16.41	14.75
			Arecanut	0.83	0.85
			Cashewnut	0.82	0.74
			Turmeric	1.13	0.93*
			Ginger	1.12	1.85**
			Garlic	1.61	2.84
			Cardamom	0.028	0.022
			Total horticultural production	311.71	313.85

¹Includan others *Dry turmeric ** Fresh ginger

Mussels against Water Pollution

- ❖ Scientists are deploying “mussels” across the oceans to absorb microplastics and other pollutants in the fight against water pollution.
- ❖ The mussel act as 'super-filters' - taking in phytoplankton for nourishment along with microplastics, pesticides and other pollutants.
- ❖ Mussels are mainly marine or freshwater creatures with a hard-outer shell.



Tigers @ High Altitude Ecosystems

- ❖ Union Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar has released a report on Status of Tiger Habitats in high altitude ecosystems.
- ❖ The study was done by Global Tiger Forum, WWF, Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHPC) of the IUCN and governments of India, Nepal and Bhutan.
- ❖ The study reveals that even ecology at high altitude is compatible for the tiger growth.





About GTF

- ❖ GTF is the only inter- governmental international body on a global campaign to protect the remaining 5 sub-species of Tigers distributed over 13 Tiger Range countries of the world.
- ❖ The GTF was formed in 1993. In 1997, the GTF became an independent organization.
- ❖ Its secretariat is at New Delhi.

Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis – Report

- ❖ The world bank has released a new report titled Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis”.
- ❖ It highlights how deteriorating water quality is an “invisible crisis” that has wiped out one third of potential economic growth in highly polluted areas.
- ❖ It has warned that a combination of bacteria, sewage, chemicals and plastics can remove oxygen from water and transform it into a “poison for people and ecosystems alike”.

Nitrogen

- ❖ The report notes that a key contributor to poor water quality is nitrogen.
- ❖ Nitrogen which is applied as fertiliser in agriculture, eventually enters rivers, lakes and oceans where it transforms into harmful nitrates and enters into food chain.

Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)

- ❖ It states that when BOD crosses a threshold of 8 milligrams per litre, GDP growth in those regions drops by 0.83 percentage points.
- ❖ BOD is a measure of how much organic pollution is in water.

Climate Change and Bananas

- ❖ According to a study published in Nature Climate Change, climate change has resulted in more favourable growing conditions for bananas.
- ❖ But the trend will reverse and climate change is eventually expected to cause a negative impact by 2050.
- ❖ Bananas thrive in warmer climates, and India is the world’s largest producer and consumer of the fruit crop.
- ❖ National Horticulture Board has recorded consistent high yields of banana from 2011-17 (34 tonnes/hectare).

BANANA YIELD IN INDIA (TONNES/HECTARE)



2011-12	35.7
2012-13	34.2
2013-14	37.0
2014-15	35.5
2015-16	34.6
2016-17*	34.0

**Provisional*

Source: National Horticulture Board

National Initiative on Wetlands Rehabilitation

- ❖ Under its national initiative on wetlands rehabilitation, Union government has identified 100 wetlands all over India for “rehabilitation”.
- ❖ Pallikaranai, Point Calimere, Pulicat and Koothankulam were the wetlands included in the list from Tamilnadu.
- ❖ The state governments have been asked to create a group called “Friends of Wetlands” or Pakshi Mitras.
- ❖ They will be part of the stakeholders and be active participants in the conservation of these wetlands.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, as per a study by SACON, Coimbatore in 1991, there are 1,175 wetlands that cover 1.24% of the total area.

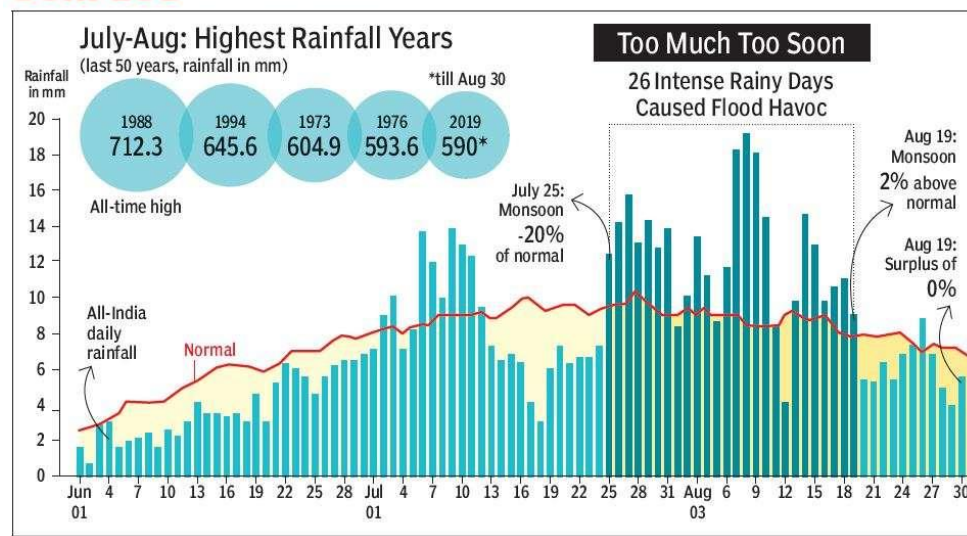
Mid-Monsoon 2019 Lightning Report

- ❖ Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council, a non-profit organisation that works closely with India Meteorological Department (IMD) has released the “Mid-Monsoon 2019 Lightning Report”.
- ❖ Odisha recorded the maximum incidents of lightning and Uttar Pradesh recorded maximum deaths due to lightning during April – July 2019.
- ❖ This is for the first time in India a report has mapped lightning strikes across the country and the lives they have claimed.
- ❖ Such a database will be used to develop an early warning system for lightning, spread awareness, and prevent deaths.

Wettest India in 25 years

- ❖ July and August this year, the main monsoon months, were the wettest India has seen in 25 years.
- ❖ Countrywide rainfall in the two months has been 10% above normal, the highest since 1994, met records reveal.
- ❖ This is also the first time since 2010 that both July and August have received surplus all-India rainfall - just the second time in the past 25 years.

SURPLUS RAINFALL



Blue road project - Qatar

- ❖ The Public Works Authority in Qatar (Ashghal) has implemented a pilot "cool pavement" project in Doha, Qatar.
- ❖ It involves the use of a cryogenic material to reduce the temperature of the bitumen on roads.
- ❖ The 'cool pavement', reflecting about 50 percent of sunlight, consists of four layers of a primary material, followed by three layers of materials that reduce heat absorbed by solar radiation.



Drought Forecasting Toolbox

- ❖ Drought Toolbox was officially launched during the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) held at New Delhi.
- ❖ It can be used by countries to assess drought risks in their regions much in advance.
- ❖ It can also accurately evaluate the vulnerability of different geographic regions to drought.
- ❖ The toolbox uses 30 parameters, including soil moisture, rainfall data and temperature data of the present and past.
- ❖ According to a World Bank study, drought, which are normally difficult to foresee are four times costlier than floods.



Stopping Illegal Groundwater Exploitation – NGT

- ❖ The National Green Tribunal has constituted a committee to formulate steps to cease illegal groundwater extraction.
- ❖ The committee aims to
- ❖ Ensure that groundwater is not illegally extracted
- ❖ Monitor manning and functioning of the Central Ground Water Authority
- ❖ It comprises,
 - Joint secretaries of Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Water Resources
 - Central Ground Water Board
 - National Institute of Hydrology (Roorkee)
 - National Remote Sensing Centre and Central Pollution Control Board

Delhi Declaration on Desertification

- ❖ The 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) concluded in Greater Noida with member countries adopting the Delhi Declaration.



- ❖ COP 14 to UNCCD ended with a commitment to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030.
- ❖ Such neutrality is defined by the UN as ensuring that enough land is available across the world to ensure a sustainable future.



- ❖ The Delhi Declaration is a statement of global action by each country on how to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality.
- ❖ Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar will be president of UNCCD for a period of 2 years.

Weed killer Glyphosate - Germany

- ❖ Germany has decided to phase out the controversial weed killer glyphosate by the end of 2023.
- ❖ The ban is to protect insect populations that play a pivotal role in ecosystems and pollination of food crops.
- ❖ The chemical is also suspected to cause cancer in humans.
- ❖ Glyphosate is popular in India too.
- ❖ Earlier, Austria became the first EU member to ban glyphosate use in July 2019.

WAVE Summit 2019 – Women Entrepreneurs

- ❖ Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokriyal has launched the Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WAVE Summit 2019).
- ❖ The WAVE Summit will be held in November-December 2019.
- ❖ It will be the largest gathering of young women students to promote entrepreneurship in waste management and providing alternatives to single use plastic carry bags.
- ❖ Theme of the Event: Make Your Own Bag
- ❖ This program is to empower women to take up income generation activity and entrepreneurship in waste management through making a business out of this concept.

Hottest Ever Five Years: 2014 – 19

- ❖ According to a new UN report compiled by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the five-year period ending 2019 is set to be the hottest ever.
- ❖ The period is currently estimated to be 1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial (1850-1900) times and 0.2 degrees Celsius warmer than 2011-2015.
- ❖ The past four years were already the hottest since record-keeping began in 1850.
- ❖ Carbon dioxide levels reached a record high of 37 billion tonnes.



World's First Trading in Particulate Matter – Gujarat

- ❖ Gujarat government has launched what is being described as the “world’s first market” for trading in Particulate Matter (PM) emissions.
- ❖ This emission trading scheme (ETS) has been launched in Surat.
- ❖ ETS aims at
 - reducing the pollution load in an area
 - minimising the cost of compliance for the industry.
- ❖ The Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) sets a cap on the total emission load from all industries.
- ❖ Various industries can buy and sell the ability to emit particulate matter, by trading permits (in kilograms) under this cap.
- ❖ For this reason, ETS is also called a cap-and-trade market.

National Water Mission Awards - 2019

- ❖ Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekawat presented the National Water Mission Awards- 2019.
- ❖ The ‘National Water Mission Awards’ is an initiative of National Water Mission (NWM), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ The award aims to recognize excellence in water conservation, efficient water use and sustainable water management practices.

About NWM

- ❖ NWM is one of the 8 missions under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- ❖ Its Objectives
 - Conservation of water
 - Minimizing wastage of water
 - Ensuring more equitable distribution both across and within states through integrated water resources development and management.

New species of Cat snakes

- ❖ A new species of snake called Thackeray's Cat Snake (scientific name *Boiga thackeray*) has been found in Sahyadri tiger reserve in Koyna area of Maharashtra after 125 years.



- ❖ This species usually falls in the category of cat snake or cat-eyed snakes and belongs to the genus *Boiga*.
- ❖ These snakes belonging to this genus are found all over India, but some species are found only in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ It was named after researcher Tejas Thackeray, son of Uddhav Thackeray.

STATES

NRC Final List – Assam

- ❖ Assam published the final list of the National Register of Citizens (NRC).
- ❖ Out of 3,30,27,661 applicants, 3,11,21,004 people have been found eligible for inclusion in the final NRC list.
- ❖ 19 lakh people were excluded from the list.
- ❖ The government has given 120 days' time to those excluded from the NRC to appeal in the court.
- ❖ They will have to appeal against it at Foreigners' Tribunals (FT), a quasi-judicial court and subsequently in the high court or Supreme Court.



About

- ❖ NRC is a list of people who can prove that they came to Assam before 24 March 1971, a day before India's neighboring country Bangladesh declared independence from Pakistan.
- ❖ The first NRC was prepared in 1951 on the basis of year's census in Assam.
- ❖ This is the first time in 34 years that the NRC list has come out in Assam.

West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019

- ❖ The West Bengal Legislative Assembly has passed the West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019 to prevent and punish incidents of mob assaults and lynching.
- ❖ It proposes a jail term from three years to life for those involved in assaulting and injuring a person.
- ❖ The bill was passed in the aftermath of a string of incidents of people getting beaten to death over rumours of cattle smuggling and child theft.
- ❖ Rajasthan has also passed a similar bill and it awaits President's nod.

AB-MGRSBY – Rajasthan

- ❖ The Rajasthan government has launched a new health insurance scheme named 'Ayushman Bharat-Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Swasthya Bima Yojna (AB-MGRSBY)'.
- ❖ It was launched on September 1.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented after merging the Centre's Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY) and the state's Bhamashah Swasthya Bima Yojna (BSBY).

Bill against 'forced conversion'

- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh Assembly passed a Bill against conversion by force, inducement or through marriages solemnised for the "sole purpose" of adopting a new religion.
- ❖ The Bill repealed the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2006.
- ❖ According to the new Bill, if Dalits, women or minors were made to convert, the jail term will be between two-seven years.

Himachal Pradesh Passes Bill Against 'Forced Conversion'

The Bill Prohibits Conversion
By Force, Undue Influence,
Coercion, Marriage Or
Any Fraudulent Means.

Any Marriage For The Sole
Purpose Of Conversion Will
Also Be Declared Null And
Void Under Section 5
Of The Bill

Terracotta Grinder - Varanasi, UP

- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched first ever 'Terracotta Grinder' at Sewapuri in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ This machine will grind the wasted and broken pottery items for re-using in pottery-making.
- ❖ It is expected to bring down production cost of terracotta products and supplement income of potters.





Harvest Festival in Odisha: Nuakhai Juhar

- ❖ Odisha celebrated Nuakhai Juhar, a harvest festival welcoming the newly harvested crops of the season.
- ❖ It is one of the most ancient festivals celebrated in Odisha and an agricultural festival.
- ❖ Farmers offer the first produce from their lands to Goddess Samaleswari, mother goddess of Sambalpur district of Odisha.
- ❖ This festival is celebrated more prominently in Western Odisha.

10:10:10 - Delhi Dengue Campaign

- ❖ From 1st September 2019, Delhi government has launched a mega 10-week anti-mosquito campaign against “dengue and chikungunya”.
- ❖ The campaign aims to increase the participation of residents in preventing their spread.
- ❖ The initiative is titled ‘10 Hafte, 10 Baje, 10 Minute – Har Ravivar, Dengue par war’.
- ❖ As part of the campaign, the government has asked the people of Delhi to give 10 minutes every Sunday at 10 a.m. to check all sources of stagnant water at their homes to eradicate dengue mosquitoes.
- ❖ Dengue mosquitoes breed only in clean water.

Hyderabad-Karnataka Region is Renamed

- ❖ The Karnataka government has approved to rename Hyderabad-Karnataka region of the state as Kalyana Karnataka.
- ❖ Hyderabad-Karnataka is a colonial-era nomenclature that associated the region with the erstwhile Nizams of Hyderabad.

Hyderabad
Karnataka
Region



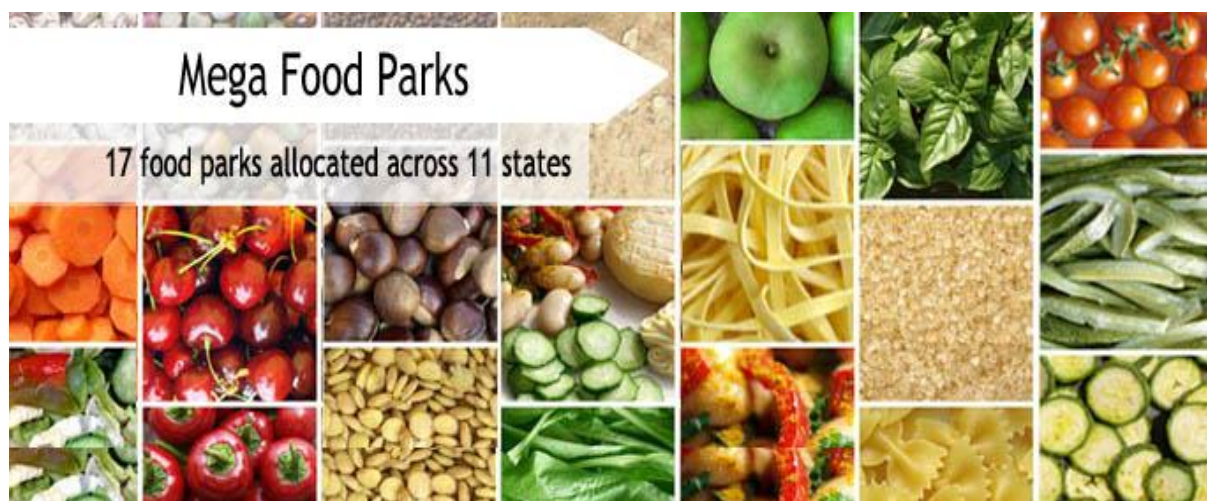
- ❖ It comprises 6 districts of Karnataka - Bidar, Bellary, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Raichur and Yadgir.
- ❖ The districts were part of the Nizam's territory and brought under Karnataka in 1956 when states in India were reorganised.
- ❖ Article 371 (j) created through Constitutional Amendment Act 98th, 2012 gives special status to this region as it is considered one of the most backward in the country.

UNESCO and Rajasthan government

- ❖ UNESCO and Rajasthan government have joined hands to promote music, art and craft forms, and other intangible cultural heritage of the state.
- ❖ It is a partnership agreement to promote community-based responsible tourism based on the rich intangible cultural heritage of Rajasthan.
- ❖ The project will be implemented in Jodhpur, Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner districts.

Telangana – Mega Food Park

- ❖ Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Badal inaugurated the First Mega Food Park of Telangana in Lakkampally, Nizamabad District.
- ❖ The project aims to give a major boost to the food processing sector.
- ❖ Such parks add value and reduce food wastage at each stage of the supply chain with particular focus on perishables.
- ❖ They connect modern food processing units with agricultural /horticultural zone.



Indigenous Metro Coach – Mumbai Metro

- ❖ PM Modi launched Mumbai's first 'Make in India' metro coach, manufactured by the state-run BEML.
- ❖ It was built in under 75 days at Bengaluru facility of BEML.
- ❖ 500 more such indigenously built coaches will be produced.

About

- ❖ BEML Limited (formerly Bharat Earth Movers Limited) was established in 1964.
- ❖ It is a 'Miniratna-Category-1' Public Sector Undertaking of Government of India.

International Symposium on Buckwheat – Meghalaya

- ❖ In Meghalaya, a four-day international symposium on buckwheat crop.
- ❖ The theme of the symposium was "diversifying food systems for health and nutritional security".

About

- ❖ Buckwheat is a low input crop that has relatively high yields even in marginal soil.
- ❖ It adds nutrients to the soil and hence it makes a good cover crop or rotational crop.
- ❖ It extracts soil phosphorus from soil better than most grain-type cover crops.





Special Tiger Force – Uttarakhand

- ❖ The Uttarakhand government has decided to form a Special Tiger Force (STF) for Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR).
- ❖ The force will have 85 posts & will help serve as the second layer of protection at the CTR.
- ❖ The STPF will be effective in checking illegal human intrusion into the reserve through villages located on its fringes.
- ❖ The decision is in line with Union government's guidelines for providing 3-tier protection to tigers at reserves.

First Level	Regular Patrols by Forest Guards
Second Level	STPF
Third Level	Intelligence-gathering mechanisms to prevent poaching

Sahibganj Multimodal Terminal, Jharkhand

- ❖ The Multi Modal Terminal built at Sahibganj, Jharkhand has become operational.
- ❖ It is the Second Multi-Modal Terminal (MMT) on National Waterway -1 (river Ganga).
- ❖ It will play an important role in transportation of domestic coal from the local mines in Rajmahal.
- ❖ Connectivity:
 - Indo-Nepal cargo connectivity through waterways route.
 - Connected to North-East States through Bangladesh by river-sea route.
 - Connected to hinterland to Kolkata, Haldia and further to the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The first MMT came into operation on November 2018 at Varanasi.
- ❖ The MMTs are being built as part of the Jal Marg Vikas Project that aims to develop the stretch of River Ganga between Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to Haldia, West Bengal for navigation of large vessels



Special Cell for Overseas Recruitment – Punjab

- ❖ The Punjab Employment Generation Department (PEGD) has decided to play the role of a recruitment agency for the youth “wanting to go abroad” for work.
- ❖ It will also set up a special cell to send the youth for studies abroad.
- ❖ The move came after regular complaints of fraud by travel agents.
- ❖ The special cell will have a tie-up with foreign public universities which offer education at reasonable rates.
- ❖ This facility is already available in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Telangana.

First Public Info Portal - Rajasthan

- ❖ In a pioneering step, the first-ever public information portal called “Jan Soochna” has been launched in Rajasthan.
- ❖ It is in compliance with Section 4(2) of the RTI Act (proactive disclosure of information).
- ❖ As per this section, the portal promises to provide information about government authorities and departments “suo motu” to the public.
- ❖ It will initially give information pertaining to 13 departments.
- ❖ The portal brings yet another distinction to Rajasthan, where the RTI movement had started in 1990s.

India’s first International Women’s Trade Centre - Kerala

- ❖ Kerala is going to set up India’s first International Women’s Trade Centre (iWTC) in Kozhikode.
- ❖ It aims to boost women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity.
- ❖ It is an important Gender Park under the Department of Social Justice of Kerala Government.
- ❖ The first phase of iWTC will be completed by 2021. It is executed under the Gender Park’s “Vision 2020”.

New insurance schemes - Haryana

- ❖ Haryana’s Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched “Mukhyamantri Vyapari Samuhik Niji Durghatna Beema Yojana” and “Mukhyamantri Vyapari Kshatipurti Beema Yojana.”



- ❖ Under the Mukhyamantri Vyapari Samuhik Niji Durghatna Beema Yojana, an accident insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh will be provided for 3.75 lakh registered traders.
- ❖ Under the Mukhyamantri Vyapari Kshatipurti Beema Yojana, an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh will be provided for 3.13 lakh registered small and medium traders.
- ❖ Haryana became the first state in India to implement this scheme.

Mukhya Mantri Dal Poshit Yojana - Uttarakhand

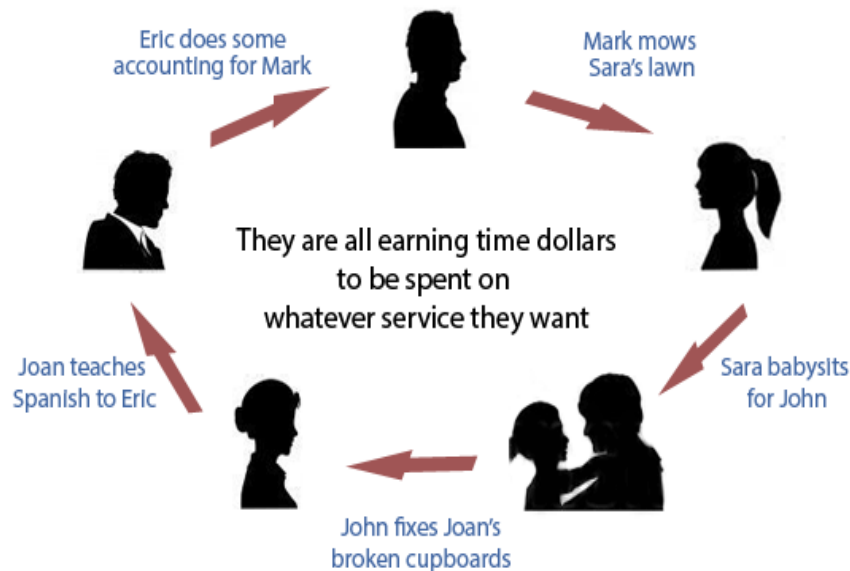
- ❖ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched a scheme Mukhya Mantri Dal Poshit Yojana.
- ❖ Under this scheme, each ration cardholders in the state will get two kgs of pulses at subsidized rates every month.

Uranium Mining in Telengana

- ❖ Telangana State Assembly passed a resolution against proposed Uranium mining in Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR), located in Nallamala forest area of the State.
- ❖ The project is expected to be a threat to the habitation and biodiversity in and around Nallamala due to mining besides public fears of air and water pollution.
- ❖ It might also displace the native Chenchu tribals.

Time Banks - Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government's Happiness Department has proposed to set up a "Time Bank".
- ❖ It's a reciprocal service exchange which uses "units of time" as currency.
- ❖ Community-level banks will be formed with a list of volunteers.
- ❖ The list of "skills" they could impart or "services they could offer" will be noted.



- ❖ Whenever a bank member needs a service or wants to acquire a new skill (Ex: playing a guitar), she/he could exchange a credit, worth an hour, with another member knowing the skill.
- ❖ This concept was first conceived at the Cincinnati Time Store, USA in 1827.
- ❖ The first Time Bank was set up in Japan in 1973.

1100 Helpline in Himachal Pradesh

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh government has launched Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline '1100' (Chief Minister's Service Resolution Helpline).
- ❖ The service is for speedy and time-bound redressal of public grievances using modern technology.
- ❖ With the launch of Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline Himachal Pradesh has now become 4th state in country to provide this facility.
- ❖ So far, this facility is available in Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Moti Bagh Film – Uttarakhand

- ❖ Moti Bagh, a documentary film based on the struggle of a farmer in a remote Uttarakhand village has been "nominated" for the Oscars.
- ❖ The film is based on the life of Vidyadutt Sharma, a farmer living in Pauri Garhwal region.



- ❖ This documentary film was directed by Nirmal Chandra Dandriyal.
- ❖ A short film based on the person has also won the 1st prize at the International short film festival in Kerala.

Dikshi Hydroelectric Project – Arunachal Pradesh

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu dedicated the Dikshi Hydroelectric Project to the people of the state.
- ❖ The 24 Mega Watt Hydroelectric Project has been installed at Dikshi Village in West Kameng District.
- ❖ It is a Run of the River project constructed on the river Phudung.
- ❖ It was completed in a record time of four years.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh is the sole beneficiary of the power generation from this project.

DEET App – Telengana

- ❖ Telangana State government has launched an exclusive app for unemployed youth.
- ❖ The Digital Employment Exchange of Telangana (DEET) is a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country.
- ❖ The DEET platform currently has more than 40,000 vacancies from companies across the State and the country.
- ❖ DEET aims to give more opportunities to job seekers while broadening the horizons of employers by giving them ample options to choose from.

Google AI Lab in Bengaluru

- ❖ Google is launching an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research Lab in Bengaluru to create products for world market.
- ❖ The Lab will be led by Manish Gupta, a SEM (Society for Experimental Mechanics) Fellow.
- ❖ It ties up with state run BSNL for expanding Wi-Fi hotspots in villages in Gujarat, Bihar and Maharashtra.
- ❖ Google plans to introduce 'tokenized' cards.
- ❖ It enables payment for things using a "digital token on the phone" rather than actual debit card or credit card number.



Vertical Property Rules, Maharashtra

- ❖ Maharashtra will become India's first state to formulate vertical property rules.
- ❖ It aims to establish the ownership right of vertical properties like flats, residential or commercial buildings.
- ❖ It is a step towards cleaner property titles, which would make buying and selling of apartments less risk prone.

Year of Artificial Intelligence

- ❖ The Telangana government has decided celebrate the year of 2020 as the Year of Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ The state government has signed up with NITI Aayog, which has come out with 'National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence' to run pilot projects in Telangana.
- ❖ Telangana was 1st State to sign up with NITI Aayog when they prepared 'AI for All' document.
- ❖ Recently the IT industry body Nasscom had announced the setting up of a Centre of Excellence in AI and Data Sciences in Hyderabad.

Tatpar App – Delhi Police

- ❖ Delhi Police has launched an app named "Tatpar".
- ❖ It is a one-stop destination for access to over 50 citizen-centric services and amalgamates all the websites and mobile applications of Delhi Police.
- ❖ People can file an e-FIR, pay traffic challan, report a missing mobile phone, apply for police clearance certificates from the app itself.
- ❖ It has an SOS button to place a call on an emergency contact number (SOS) of choice or reach out to the Police Control Room at 100 with a single touch.

Crackers with QR Code – Delhi

- ❖ Delhi- NCR region will have crackers with a unique logo and QR code on the boxes for Deepavali 2019.
 - unique logo on the boxes to help people identify whether they are buying low-emission green crackers or the regular highly-polluting ones.
 - QR codes will have production and emission testing details
- ❖ These green crackers will have both sound and light.



- ❖ Supreme Court had earlier instructed that only green crackers should be burst in Delhi-NCR region.

Green crackers

- ❖ According to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research following crackers are “green crackers”
 - firecrackers that cause 30-35% lower emissions of particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5)
 - 35-40% lower sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions
- ❖ They have low content of aluminium and use of barium salts and ash as a drying agent is banned in these crackers.

Top Tourism Awards – Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has bagged the top honour at the National Tourism Awards 2017-18, presented by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.
- ❖ It bagged the Best State award for overall growth in tourism category.
- ❖ Goa and Madhya Pradesh were the joint winners in the Adventure Tourism category.
- ❖ Uttarakhand won the award for the Best Film Promotion-Friendly State.
- ❖ Telangana won the award for the Best State for the innovative use of IT.

Animal Sacrifice Ban - Tripura

- ❖ The Tripura High Court has ordered to ban animals sacrifice in religious places across the state.
- ❖ It has ordered that, no person including the state shall be allowed to sacrifice of any animal or bird within the precincts of any one of the temples within the state of Tripura.
- ❖ The Court observed that the animals also have fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ The ruling was observed in a PIL filed by a retired Judicial Officer against animal sacrifice in the following famous temples of Tripura.
 - Mata Tripureswari Devi Temple and Chatur Das Devata Temple.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Kalinga-FCC Awards for Excellence in Journalism

- ❖ The Kalinga-FCC Awards for Excellence in Journalism are a first of its kind award in India.
- ❖ It aims to encourage extensive and informed coverage in the global media of India and the 7 SAARC Countries.
- ❖ It was instituted this year by the New Delhi-based Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia (FCC) and the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ Reuters News agency journalists bagged top two awards.
- ❖ The BBC of the UK, Germany-based European Press Photo Agency (EPA), and PBS News Hour of USA shared the other three awards.

4th Global Goalkeeper Award – Modi

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be honoured with the prestigious 'Global Goalkeeper Award' by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in October.
- ❖ He was selected for his leadership and commitment to the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan which was launched on October 2, 2014.
- ❖ These annual awards, in five categories, are presented to leaders and individuals for their efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ Categories: Progress, Changemaker, Campaign, Goalkeepers Voice and the Global Goalkeeper.

Namaste Pacific

- ❖ Namaste Pacific is an event jointly hosted by the high commissioners of New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.
- ❖ The second edition of Namaste Pacific was hosted at the New Zealand High Commissioner's residence.
- ❖ Namaste Pacific is the brainchild of Joanna Kempkers, High Commissioner, New Zealand.
- ❖ Namaste Pacific presented the Pacific culture to India.

Aqua Aquaria India 2019

- ❖ The Vice President inaugurated Aqua Aquaria India 2019 at Hyderabad.
- ❖ It was organised by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).
- ❖ It is a bi-annual event.
- ❖ Theme: Taking blue revolution to India's hinterland.
- ❖ The Vice president also launched the swadeshi 'Pearl' brand Artemia
- ❖ The feed is developed by RGCA (Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture) under the Make in India programme.
- ❖ Tiger Prawn cultivation and export was promoted during this event.
- ❖ India's seafood industry is the second-largest aquaculture producer in the world.
- ❖ India is largest exporter of shrimps to the USA, the second-largest exporter of shrimps to Europe, and the third-largest exporter of shrimps to Japan.
- ❖ Aquaculture contributes around 52 per cent of the total marine products export earnings of India.



Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA)

- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) is the R & D arm of The Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA).
- ❖ Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ It is dedicated to augment the Indian seafood exports through sustainable culture technologies.

Kiran Nagarkar

- ❖ Kiran Nagarkar (1942 – 5 September, 2019) an Indian novelist, playwright, film and drama critic and screenwriter both in Marathi and English, one of the most significant writers of postcolonial India has passed away.
- ❖ Amongst his works are Saat Sakkam Trechalis (Seven Sixes Are Forty-Three) (1974), Ravan and Eddie (1994) and the epic novel Cuckold (1997).
- ❖ For the novel Cuckold, he was awarded the 2001 Sahitya Akademi Award in English by the Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters.



Kausalacharya Awards

- ❖ The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has announced the Kaushalacharya Awards 2019.
- ❖ The award is to felicitate trainers from different sectors for exceptional contribution towards creating a future-ready and skilled workforce.
- ❖ It recognizes the contribution made by skill trainers in the vocational training ecosystem.
- ❖ WorldSkills Competition winners, trainers from National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs), Industrial Training Centres (ITI), Jan Sikshan Sansthan and trainers from Corporate houses were awarded.



Ram Jethmalani passed away

- ❖ Eminent jurist and former parliamentarian Ram Jethmalani, known as one of India's top criminal lawyers passed away recently.
- ❖ In 1977, Jethmalani contested and won the Bombay North-West Lok Sabha seat.
- ❖ He retained it in the next election in 1980 as well.
- ❖ He became a member of Rajya Sabha for the first time in 1988 and later went on to become Union law minister in 1996.
- ❖ He also served as the Supreme Court Bar Association president in 2010.



19th Annual Asian Achievers Awards

- ❖ The 19th annual Asian Achievers Awards held at London.
- ❖ Vedanta Resources Chairman Anil Agarwal was conferred lifetime achievement award.
- ❖ Theme for 19th Annual Asian Achievers Awards: 'Inclusivity'.

Category	Winner
Achievement in Community Services	Onkardeep Singh MBE
Editor's Award for Contribution to Thoracic Surgery	Dr. Nilesh U Patel MD
Businessperson of the Year	Vipul Vadera
Entrepreneur of the Year	Kush Kanodia
Professional of the Year	Krishna Omkar
Sports Personality of the Year	Harjit Singh Bhanja
Uniformed, Civil and Public Services Neeta Patel Woman of the Year	Hafsa Qureshi
Editor's Choice Award for Community service, Philanthropy and Entrepreneurship	Pradip Dhamecha



Visitor's Awards

- ❖ The President of India, in his capacity as Visitor of the Central Universities, annually confers Visitor's Awards to functionaries of Central Universities.
- ❖ The award aims to promote healthy competition amongst Central Universities and motivate them to adopt best practices from around the world.
- ❖ 2019 Winners and categories

Category	Winner
Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences	Professor Sibnath Deb, Pondicherry University
Physical Sciences	Professor Sanjay Puri, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)
Biological Sciences	Professor Asad Ullah Khan, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU); Dr Partima, JNU
Technology Development	Dr Shaon Ray Chaudhuri, Tripura University

UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2019

- ❖ UNESCO International Literacy Prizes 2019 were announced by its the Director-General Audrey Azoulay.
- ❖ King Sejong Literacy Prize: Established in 1989 with help of South Korea.
 - It is given for development and use of mother-tongue literacy education and training.

Awardee	Programme
National Office of Literacy and Education for Adults, Algeria	National Strategy for Multilingual Literacy
Textile Fibres and Development Company, Senegal	Functional literacy and follow-up vocational training for farmers in southern Senegal in national languages

- ❖ Confucius Prize for Literacy: Established in 2005 with the help of China.
 - It gives special consideration to literacy amongst adults in rural areas and out-of-school youth, particularly girls and women.



Awardee	Programme
Camacol Antioquia, Colombia	Obras Escuela
BASAbali, Indonesia	BASAbali Wiki
Nuovo Comitato il Nobel per I Disabili, Italy	TELL ME – Theatre for Education and Literacy Learning of Migrants in Europe

76th Venice International Film Festival Awards- 2019

- ❖ The 76th Edition of the annual Venice International Film Festival Awards for 2019 was held at Venice Lido in Italy.
- ❖ It was organized by La Biennale di Venezia and was officially recognized by FIAPF (International Federation of Film Producers Association).

Award	Winner
Golden Lion for Best Film	Joker
Volpi Cup for Best Actress	Ariane Ascaride
Volpi Cup for Best Actor	Luca Marinelli

Hrant Dink Awards

- ❖ Meghalaya-based rights activist Agnes Kharshiing received the 11th International Hrant Dink Award along with Turkish activist Nebahat Akkoç who is against male violence.
- ❖ This international Award commemorates the memory of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, who was killed in 2007.
- ❖ Agnes Kharshiing is in the forefront of fighting against illegal coal mining in Meghalaya.

Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award 2019

- ❖ Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh was conferred the Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award 2019 in Dhaka.
- ❖ She was awarded for her vision of a peaceful and prosperous South Asia and her contribution to fostering cooperation between India and Bangladesh.



- ❖ The award has been instituted in the memory of former Indian President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ It is given every year to honour statesmen or leaders who have shown excellence in their fields to achieve the best for their countries.
- ❖ The award is presented by Dale View, which is a non-governmental organisation registered under the Charitable Societies Act.

Education Excellence Award 2019

- ❖ Super 30 founder and noted mathematician Anand Kumar has been felicitated in the US with a prestigious teaching award.
- ❖ He received The Education Excellence Award 2019, awarded by the Foundation For Excellence (FFE) at San Jose, California of USA.
- ❖ Anand runs the innovative Super 30 programme for the last 18 years.
- ❖ He mentors 30 students free off cost through a year-long residential coaching for India's premiere IIT-JEE exam.

National Geoscience Award 2018

- ❖ The National Geoscience Awards 2018 were conferred to 22 scientists across India for outstanding contributions in the field of geosciences, mining and allied areas.
- ❖ Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlaad Joshi conferred the awards at New Delhi.
- ❖ The awards were given under 10 categories.
- ❖ The 2 main awards were
 - National Geoscience Award of Excellence 2018 to Prof. Syed Wajih Ahmand Naqvi for his significant global contributions in the field of aquatic biogeochemical research.
 - The Young Scientist Award-2018 was awarded to Dr. Sohini Ganguly from Goa University for her significant work in the fields of volcanology, geochemistry and petrology.



Category	Area	Awardees
National Geoscience Award For Excellence	Aquatic biogeochemical research	Prof. Syed Wajih Ahmad Naqvi
National Geoscience Awards	Mineral Discovery & Exploration category	Individual: Dr. Yamna Singh Team: Dr. Debjani Sarkar Mr. Prabhakar Keshaornio Raut Mr. Pradip Sur
	Groundwater Exploration	Dr. Jansadhana Raju Nandimandalam
	Mining Technology	Individual: Dr. Ashim Kumar Sinha Dr. Arun Kumar Singh Dr. Danda Srinivas Rao Dr. Raj Shekhar Singh
	Basic Geosciences	Individual: Dr. Parimpreet Kaur Professor Jyotisankar Ray
	Applied Geosciences	Individual: Dr. Tajdarul Hassan Syed Dr. Vikrant Jain
	Geophysics/Applied Geophysics	Individual: Dr. Nittala Satyavani Mr. H.C. Gouda Team: Mr. H.C. Gouda Mr. H. Rajaram Dr. R.K. Singh Mr. Ramesh Kesavan
	Geo-Environmental Studies	Dr. Bahadur Singh Kotlia
	Natural Hazard Investigations	Dr. R. Jayagonda Perumal
Young Scientist Award	Petrology, volcanology and geochemistry	Dr. Sohini Ganguly

Payal Jangid – Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards 2019

- ❖ 17-year-old Payal Jangid from Alwar, Rajasthan became the first Indian to receive the ‘Changemaker Award’ at the Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards 2019 in New York.
- ❖ She was awarded for her contribution in abolishing the practice of child marriage in her native Hinsla and other neighbouring villages.
- ❖ She is also the sarpanch (President) of the Bal Panchayat (children’s parliament) in Hinsla, which is a Bal Mitra Gram (child-friendly village).

- ❖ This concept was founded by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi.



Alternate Nobel Prize – Greta Thunberg

- ❖ Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg is among four people announced as the winners of a Right Livelihood Award.
- ❖ The award is also known as the "Alternative Nobel."
- ❖ Thunberg is being recognized 'for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientific facts.'
- ❖ Other Winners are

Winners	Contribution
Davi Kopenawa and the Hutukara Yanomami Association	To represent Brazilian tribes and for protecting the Amazon forest and its people
Moroccan activist Aminatou Haidar- also known as Saharawi Gandhi	A human rights lawyer and awarded for her non-violent struggle for Western Sahara's independence
Chinese lawyer Guo Jianmei	For advocating women's rights in China.

About

- ❖ The award was founded in 1980 by Swedish-German philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull.
- ❖ The annual Right Livelihood Award "honours efforts" which the founder of the prize felt were being "ignored by the Nobel prizes".



- ❖ The four winners will each receive 1 million kronor (\$103,000).



Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards 2019

- ❖ President of India has announced the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards 2019.
- ❖ They are the highest multidisciplinary science awards in India.
- ❖ It is an annual award.
- ❖ Awards are given by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- ❖ The names of the recipients are traditionally declared by the Director General on every 26 September, which is the CSIR Foundation Day.
- ❖ The prize is awarded in seven disciplines, namely:
 - Physical sciences
 - Chemical sciences
 - Biological Sciences
 - Medical sciences
 - Mathematical Sciences
 - Engineering Sciences
 - Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Science
- ❖ The prize is awarded in memory of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (1894 – 1955), the first director-general of the CSIR and the first Chairman of the UGC.
- ❖ In 1954 he was awarded Padma Bhushan.



Amitabh Bachan – Dada Saheb Palke Award

- ❖ Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javedkar has informed that Amitabh Bachan will be conferred with Dada Saheb Palke Award for 2019.
- ❖ Dadasaheb Phalke award was instituted in honour of the legendary film producer-director Dadasaheb Phalke.
- ❖ It is India's highest award in cinema and started in 1969.
- ❖ The first recipient of the award was Devika Rani.

President's Colours Award

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind presented the prestigious President's Colours to the Corps of Army Air Defence.
- ❖ Presidential Colours are Regimental flags that are awarded to a regiment by the president during a ceremony.
- ❖ These are one of the greatest honours bestowed upon an armed force unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered by it to the nation, both during peace and war.

About

- ❖ The Army Air Defence Corps is one of the youngest corps of the army
- ❖ It was formed in 1989.
- ❖ The Regiment of Artillery was bifurcated in 1989 and then Army Air Defence College (AADC) was established.
- ❖ The AADC is the training school for the personnel of the Air Defence Corps.

Sastra Ramanujan Award 2019

- ❖ The SASTRA Ramanujan prize for 2019 will be awarded to mathematician Adam Harper, Assistant Professor with the University of Warwick, England.
- ❖ It is awarded for his several outstanding contributions to analytic and probabilistic number theory.
- ❖ The award was started in 2005 by Sastra University, a private university in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ Eligibility: Mathematicians from across the world who are less than 32 years of age, working in an area influenced by the Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- ❖ The age limit 32 commemorates the fact that Ramanujan accomplished a phenomenal body of work in this short span.

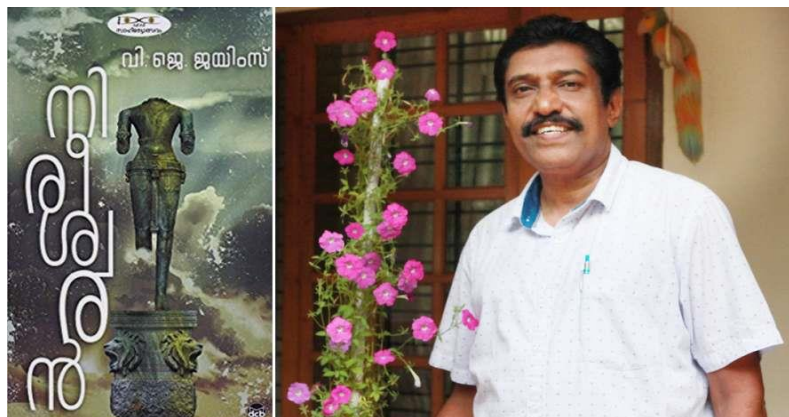
31st Punyabhushan Award

- ❖ The Vice President presented 31st Punyabhushan Award for 2019 to eminent Archeologist, Dr. G.B. Deglurkar.
- ❖ It gave recognition of his immense contribution in the field of Archaeology.
- ❖ The event was organised by Pune based Punyabhushan Foundation.
- ❖ This award is awarded every year to an eminent personality from the field of art, music, culture, science, industry, social service, or sports.
- ❖ It was first awarded in 1989.



Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Literature Award 2019

- ❖ Writer V.J. James has been selected for the 43rd Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Literary Award for his novel Nireeshwaran.
- ❖ The prestigious award was instituted by the Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Trust in memory of the revered poet.
- ❖ It is given for the best literary work in Malayalam.
- ❖ The award was instituted in 1977.



SPORTS

Champions Boat League (CBL) Snakeboat Race – Kerala

- ❖ Nadubhagam Chundan, the snake boat of Pallathuruthy Boat Club, lifted the 67th edition of the coveted Nehru Trophy at the Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha.
- ❖ 'Chambakkulam Chundan' and "Karichal Chundan" came in the second and third positions respectively.



- ❖ Nation's first Prime Minister visited Alappuzha lake in 1952 and travelled on Nadubhagam Chundan (snakeboat).

About

- ❖ The CBL seeks to professionalise Kerala's largely scattered snake-boat races, while commercialising them without losing the conventional spirit.
- ❖ Hosted by Kerala Tourism, CBL is the country's first-ever boat race on the lines of the IPL.
- ❖ There will be 12 races in the CBL.
- ❖ It begins with the Nehru trophy and concludes with the President's Trophy Boat Race in Kollam on November 23.

Firoz Shah Kotla Stadium Renamed: Arun Jaitley

- ❖ Delhi's Firoz Shah Kotla stadium is set to be renamed as Arun Jaitley Stadium after the former Finance Minister, who passed away last month.
- ❖ The stadium is renamed after 14th century fortress built by Firoz Shah.
- ❖ He was also the first ruler to build a fortress next to river Yamuna.
- ❖ He created a multi-lingual, multi-cultural space. Autobiography: Futuhat-i-Firozshah.

- ❖ Arun Jaitley was the former president of Delhi Cricket Association.



Senior Women's National Football Championship

- ❖ The 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship will be held in Arunachal Pradesh for the first time.
- ❖ The tournament will be held in the oldest town of the state Pasighat in East Siang District.

SAFF U-15 Football

- ❖ India U-15 team defeated Nepal 7-0 to lift the SAFF U-15 title.
- ❖ India has won the title for a record third time after previous wins in 2013 and 2017.
- ❖ Both wins were against Nepal.
- ❖ Striker Sridarth Nongmeikapam scored a hat-trick.



Anupama Swain – Martial Arts

- ❖ Odisha's Anupama Swain has won a bronze medal in the recently concluded World Martial Arts Mastership Jiu-Jitsu 2019.
- ❖ The event was held in Chungju, South Korea and she was the only Indian to participate in the event.
- ❖ By virtue of this bronze medal, she has qualified for the 2022 Asian Games.
- ❖ Jiu-Jitsu is a form of martial art and combat sport and it puts the entire focus on grappling with particular emphasis on ground fighting.



Afghanistan's Rashid Khan

- ❖ Afghanistan leg spinner Rashid Khan has created a new record in Test cricket.
- ❖ He broke the 15-year-old record by becoming the Youngest Test captain in the Test Cricket history. (Aged 20 years 350 days)
- ❖ Previously, the former Zimbabwe wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu was holding this record who was 20 years and 358 days old.

US Open 2019

Women's Event

- ❖ 19-year-old Bianca Vanessa Andreescu beat Serena Williams of USA in the 2019 US Open Women's Singles final to become the first Canadian to win a Grand Slam title.

- ❖ Andreescu is also the first woman to win the U.S. Open in her tournament debut in the Open era since 1968.
- ❖ This is her first grand slam win.

Men's Event

- ❖ Spanish Rafael Nadal beat Daniil Medvedev of Russia and won his fourth U.S. Open title.
- ❖ This is his 19th Grand Slam title.
- ❖ Swiss player Roger Federer holds the highest number of Grand Slam titles (20).

Paralympic Committee of India Derecognised

- ❖ Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports derecognised the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) for violating National Sports Development Code of India, 2011.
- ❖ The issue pertains to malpractices in election of PCI President.

About

- ❖ PCI was founded in 1992.
- ❖ It was then earlier named as 'Physically Handicapped Sports Federation of India'.
- ❖ It is the national body responsible for selecting athletes to represent India at Paralympic Games (or Paralympics) as well as other international athletic meets.

Under 19 Asia Cup Win – India

- ❖ India defeated Bangladesh in the Under-19 Asia cup finals held at R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.





- ❖ Left-arm spinner Atharva Ankolekar took 5 wickets and helped India win the match.
- ❖ This is India's 7th U-19 Asia Cup title.

6th Track Asia Cup cycling

- ❖ Three-day event of the 6th Track Asia Cup cycling competition 2019 hosted by Cycling Federation of India (CFI) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The list was topped by India with 10 gold, 8 silver, and 7 bronze, totaling 25 medals in the event.
- ❖ India was followed by Uzbekistan and Malaysia in the second and third places respectively.

Rank	Country	gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	India	10	8	7	25
2	Uzbekistan	4	3	0	7
3	Malaysia	4	1	0	5

25th Asian Junior and Cadet Table Tennis Championships

- ❖ The 25th Edition of Asian Junior and Cadet Table Tennis Championships for 2019 was held at Mongolia.
- ❖ It was organized by the Mongolian Table Tennis Association under the authority of Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU).
- ❖ The following Indian players clinched 2 silver medals.
 - New Delhi's Payas Jain
 - The Indian boys' team

National Swimming Championships

- ❖ Srihari Nataraj has won the men's 100m freestyle title and the 50m backstroke event at the 73rd Glenmark Senior National Aquatic Championship.
- ❖ He has also created a national record by finishing with a timing of 25.58 seconds to in the men's 50m backstroke event.
- ❖ Shivani Kataria from Haryana was adjudged as the best woman swimmer.
- ❖ Karnataka won the overall championship and men's team title.
- ❖ Maharashtra took the women's team trophy.



Hero Motorcorp and Golf

- ❖ Hero MotoCorp Chairman and Managing Director Pawan Munjal will be inducted to the 2019 Asia Pacific Golf Hall of Fame.
- ❖ He is recognised for his support to the sport in India and around the World.
- ❖ The induction ceremony will be held on November at the Asian Golf Awards Gala Banquet to be held at DLF Golf & Country Club in Gurugram.
- ❖ He is a partner of all three prominent Golf tours - The PGA Tour, The European Tour and the Asian Tour.

Dhanush Srikanth – Hearing Impaired Teen Shooter

- ❖ Telangana based Dhanush Srikanth has become the first shooter with hearing impairment to get selected in the Indian national squad.



- ❖ He will compete in the junior (U-21) men's 10m air rifle team for the Asian Championships in Doha scheduled in November.
- ❖ He is also the first shooter with hearing impairment to win a national medal in the regular category by topping the Khelo India Youth Games.



Wrestling – Vinesh Pogat

- ❖ Vinesh Phogat clinched a bronze medal at Wrestling World Championships held at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ She defeated two-time world bronze medalist Maria Prevolaraki of Greece in the 53 kg freestyle event.
- ❖ She is only the fourth Indian female wrestler to win a medal at the prestigious tournament.
- ❖ She has also won gold medals at Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games gold medals.
- ❖ With this win she has qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

IBSF World Snooker Event

- ❖ The Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta have become world champions in the IBSF World Snooker Team event.
- ❖ They defeated Thailand team in the finals event held at Mandalay, Myanmar.
- ❖ Pankaj Advani's world title tally is now 23 while Aditya claimed his maiden title.

Amit Banghal – India's First Boxing Medal

- ❖ Indian boxer Amit Panghal has won a silver medal at World Boxing Championships event held at Ekaterinberg, Russia.
- ❖ He was defeated by Olympic champion Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan in the 52 kg category finals.
- ❖ The second-seeded Panghal became the first Indian male boxer to finish second in the world event.
- ❖ Manish Kaushik (63kg) also won Bronze medal in the same event.
- ❖ This is also the first time India has won more than one bronze medal at a single edition of the world championship.
- ❖ Past Winners: Vijender Singh (2009), Vikas Krishan (2011), Shiva Thapa (2015) and Gaurav Bidhuri (2017).



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Nutrition Week September 1 – 7

- ❖ National Nutrition Week is celebrated each year from 1st September to the 7th September.
- ❖ The objective of the National Nutrition Week is to enhance the nutritional practice awareness among people.
- ❖ Especially Lactating mothers are encouraged to feed their new born baby the first milk known as the “colostrums”.
- ❖ The campaign was first started by the Union government in the year 1982.

World Coconut Day – September 2

- ❖ The world coconut day is observed every year on September 2.
- ❖ The day aims to spread awareness on the health benefits of the coconut as well as the economic benefits.
- ❖ India's Coconut Development Board will celebrate 21st World Coconut Day under the theme 'Coconut for Family Wellness' on September 2 at Odisha.

International Day of Charity - September 5

- ❖ It is an international day observed annually on 5 September.
- ❖ It was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012.
- ❖ September 5 was chosen in order to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa of Calcutta.
- ❖ 5 September 2013 was the first commemoration of this Day.

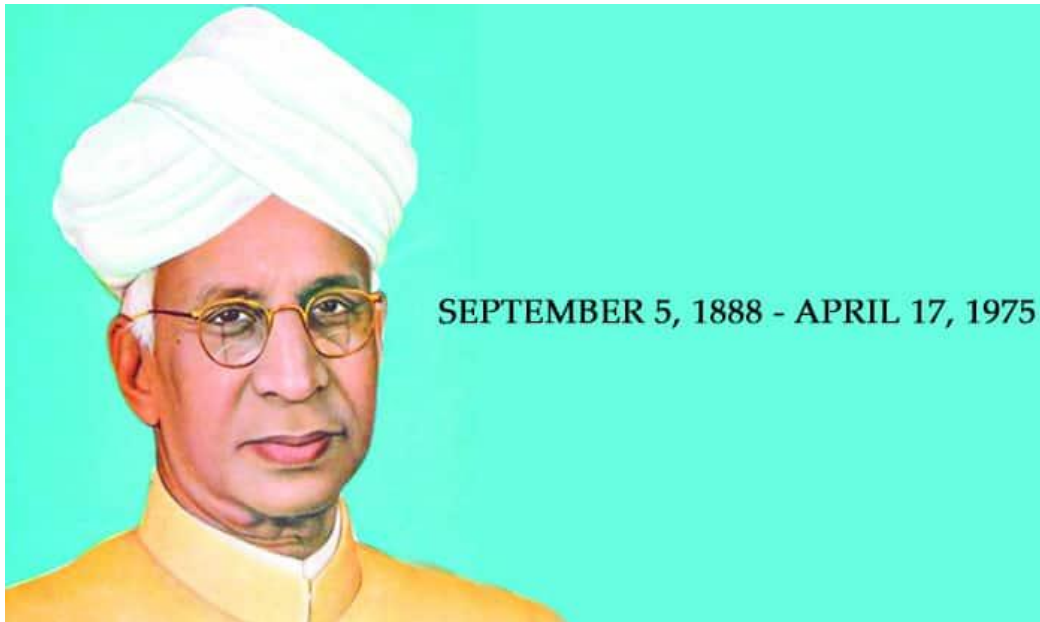


**International
Day of Charity**
Homage to Mother Teresa



Teachers Day – September 5

- ❖ Teachers' Day in India is celebrated on 5 September every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan - First as well as Second Vice President of India (1952–1962) and the Second President of India (1962–1967).
- ❖ Dr. Radhakrishnan in his book, “Political Thinkers of Modern India” indicated the significance of teachers and education in a democratic country like India.
- ❖ In 1954, he received the Bharat Ratna Award.
- ❖ He was also one of the founders of Helpage India, a nonprofit organization for elderly underprivileged in India.
- ❖ While globally, Teachers’ Day is celebrated on 5th October, in India, we celebrate it on 5th September from 1962 onwards.



World Physical Therapy Day - September 8

- ❖ The day is an opportunity for physiotherapists from all over the world to raise awareness about the crucial contribution the profession makes to keeping people well, mobile and independent.
- ❖ In 1996, the World Confederation of Physical Therapy (WCPT) designated 8th September as World Physical Therapy Day.
- ❖ This is the date WCPT was founded in 1951.
- ❖ This year the theme for the day is chronic pain.



Facts about pain Acute pain alarms us about potential tissue damage. It can happen after surgery or injury, but sometimes it can happen without a specific reason. Most chronic pain is not associated with tissue damage and can continue for many years.	CHRONIC PAIN  Chronic pain is a significant global health burden	 Exercise therapy is included in all guidelines for the treatment of chronic pain - ask your physical therapist, the exercise expert
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Movement for Health
World Physical Therapy Day

#worldptday

International Literacy Day – September 8

- ❖ The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ❖ Sustainable Development Goal 4 has as one of its targets ensuring all young people achieve literacy and numeracy and that adults who lack these skills are given the opportunity to acquire them.
- ❖ International Literacy Day 2019 is an opportunity to express solidarity with the celebrations of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages
- ❖ The 25th anniversary of the World Conference on Special Needs Education, at which the Salamanca Statement on Inclusive Education was adopted.
- ❖ International Literacy Day 2019 will focus on 'Literacy and Multilingualism.
- ❖ 8 September was declared international literacy day by UNESCO on 26 October 1966 at 14th session of UNESCO's General conference.
- ❖ It was celebrated for the first time in 1967.



World Suicide Prevention Day – September 10

- ❖ World Suicide Prevention day is observed every year on September 10.
- ❖ It is an awareness day order to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides, with various activities around the world.
- ❖ The first such day was organised in 2003.
- ❖ Annually hosted by: The International Association for Suicide Prevention, World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Federation for Mental Health.
- ❖ Every 40 second someone loses their life to suicide.
- ❖ For 2019, WHO has launched a “40 seconds of action” campaign to raise awareness of the scale of suicide around the World.



UN Day for South-South Cooperation – September 12

- ❖ The United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation is annually observed on September 12.
- ❖ In 2003, the UN General Assembly declared December 19 to be observed as the UN Day for South-South Cooperation.
- ❖ But in 2011 it was moved to September 12.
- ❖ This date commemorates the date when the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a plan of action in 1978 to promote and implement technical cooperation among developing countries.
- ❖ The day aims to raise people's awareness of the UN's efforts to offer various services to countries of the Southern hemisphere.

World First Aid Day – September 14

- ❖ World First Aid Day was started by the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and Red Crescent Societies in 2000.
- ❖ The second Saturday of September is celebrated as the World first aid day.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about how first aid can save lives in everyday and crisis situations and stresses that it should be accessible to all, including the most vulnerable.
- ❖ The theme of World First Aid Day 2019 is "First Aid and Excluded People".

Perarinar Anna Birthday – September 15

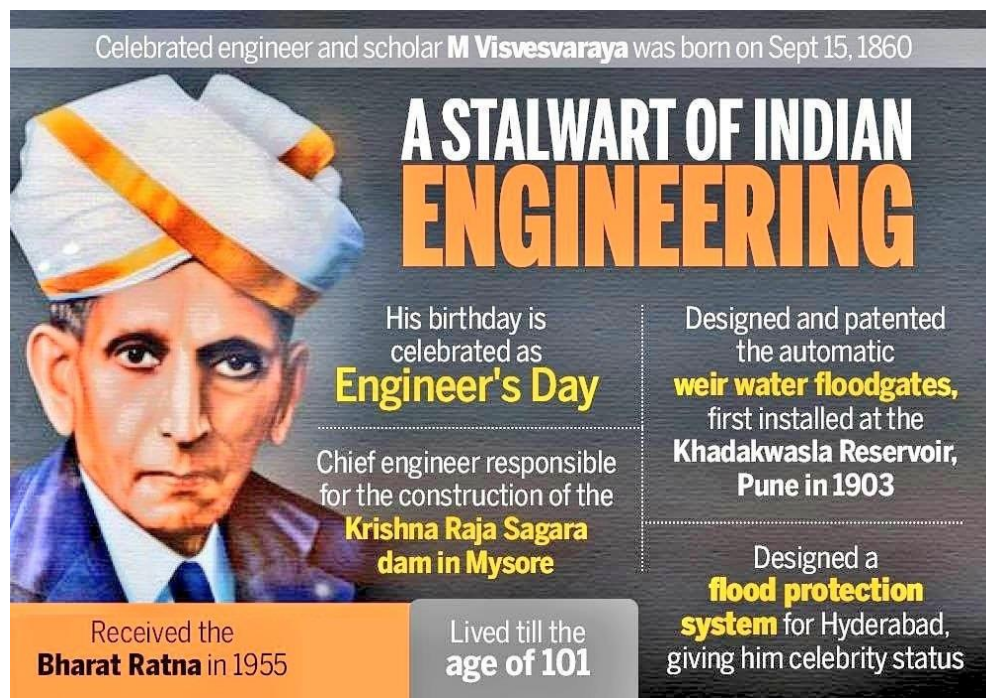
- ❖ The 111th birth anniversary of former Chief Minister and Dravidian leader C.N. Annadurai was observed on September 15th.



- ❖ Notable Achievements:
 - Renamed the Madras State as Tamilnadu
 - Gave legal recognition to “Self-respect” marriages which deny Vedic rituals.
 - Introduced 2 language policy in the state.
 - First Non-Congress CM with full majority.
- ❖ In 1969, his funeral was world’s second largest and the record still holds.
- ❖ According to Guinness Book of records 1.5 crore people attended his funeral procession.

National Engineer's Day – September 15

- ❖ Every year since 1968, September 15 is celebrated as Engineer's day.
- ❖ It is celebrated also as a mark of respect on the birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.
- ❖ He is credited for Krishna Raja Sagara Dam situated in Mysuru and for bringing up flood protection system in Hyderabad.
- ❖ Its construction was started in 1911 and was completed in 1932.
- ❖ He received Bharat Ratna, in 1955.
- ❖ He is held in high regard as a pre-eminent engineer of India.
- ❖ The theme of this 52nd Engineers day is "Engineering for Change".

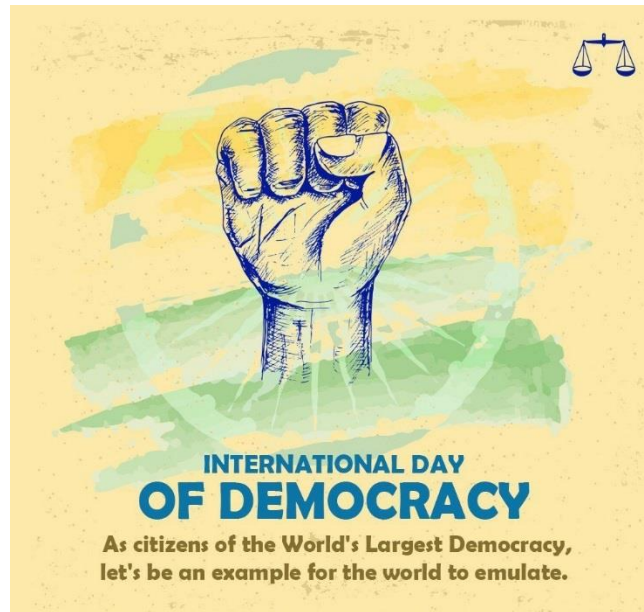


International Day of Democracy – September 15

- ❖ The annual international day of democracy is celebrated on September 15 of every year.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly passed a resolution on November 2007 to observe September 15 as the International Day of Democracy.
- ❖ The first such day was celebrated in 2008.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to uphold and promote the tenets of democracy.



- ❖ The 2019 theme for democracy day is "participation".



World Ozone Day – September 16

- ❖ The United Nations' International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated on the 16th September every year.
- ❖ It commemorates the 1987 signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
- ❖ The first such day was observed in 1995.
- ❖ The day advocates activities that create awareness on topics related to climate change and ozone depletion.
- ❖ The theme of the 2019 observations is "32 years and healing".
- ❖ It signifies three decades of remarkable international cooperation to protect the Ozone Layer.





World Patient Safety Day – September 17

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared September 17, 2019 as the first World Patient Safety Day.
- ❖ The day aims to create awareness of patient safety and urge people to show their commitment to making healthcare safer.
- ❖ The risk of patient death occurring due to “a preventable medical accident” while receiving health care, is estimated to be 1 in 300.
- ❖ Globally, 134 million adverse events contribute to 2.6 million deaths each year due to unsafe care.
- ❖ The focus of this year's International Day is “Safety Culture at All Levels”.

Railway Protection Force Raising Day – September 20

- ❖ Railway Protection Force (RPF) celebrated its 35th Raising Day on September 20.
- ❖ It was celebrated to commemorate the conferring of the Armed Force status on RPF on par with the other paramilitary forces of the Union of India on September 20, 1985.
- ❖ The force is under the authority of the Ministry of Railways.
- ❖ It has the power to search, arrest, investigate and prosecute, though the ultimate power rests in the hands of the Union Government Railway Police.
- ❖ Arun Kumar IPS is the current Director General of RPF.

International Red panda Day – September 21

- ❖ It is being celebrated to create the awareness about the declining population of Red Panda species in the World.
- ❖ Red panda is a mammal native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China.
- ❖ These rust-colored creatures are experiencing a loss of nesting trees and bamboo, leading to a decline in the population.
- ❖ These animals spend most of their lives in trees and even sleep aloft.



- ❖ It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Zero Emissions Day– September 21

- ❖ September 21st is Zero Emissions Day (ZeDay). ZeDay was created to “give the planet one day off a year.”
- ❖ The ZeDay movement is extremely important when it comes to raising awareness for the enormous amount of fossil fuels our planet uses on a day-to-day basis.
- ❖ This specific day was chosen because the day and nights are equal, with equal light in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.





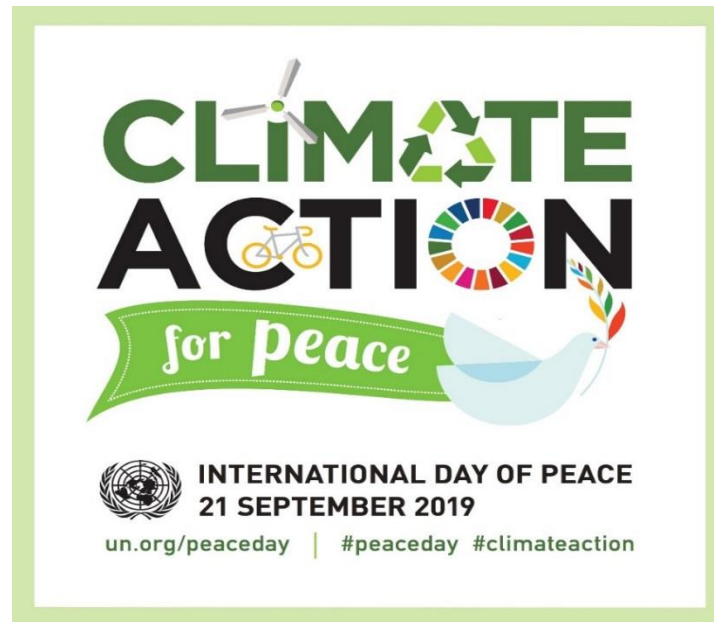
World Alzheimer's day – September 21

- ❖ Since 2012, September is being observed as World Alzheimer's Month meant to spread awareness about the disease, while September 21 is observed as World Alzheimer's Day.
- ❖ The "World Alzheimer Report 2019: Attitudes towards Dementia", was released by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI).
- ❖ Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder that usually appears in individuals who are in their mid-60s.
- ❖ Dementia is a syndrome and not a disease, which Alzheimer's is.
- ❖ Dementia is most commonly caused by Alzheimer's disease.
- ❖ Dementia can be caused by other diseases such as Parkinson's and Huntington's disease as well.



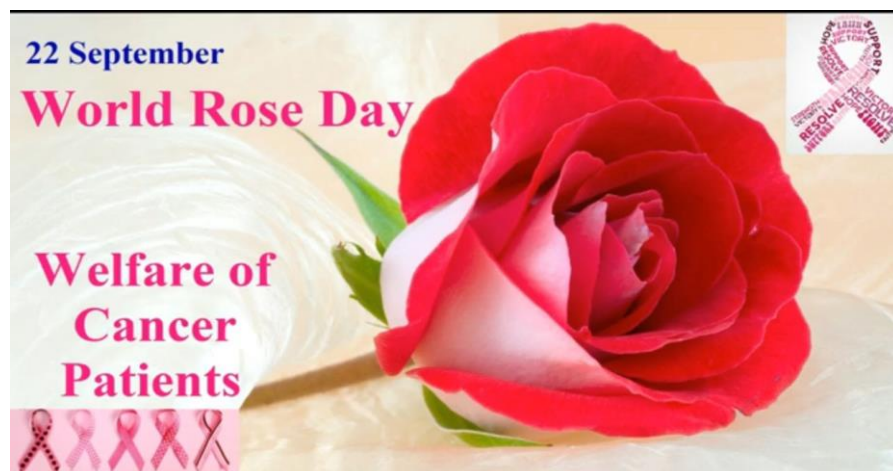
International Day of Peace - September 21

- ❖ The International Day of Peace, sometimes unofficially known as World Peace Day, is observed annually on 21 September.
- ❖ It was established by adopting UN resolution on the culture of peace in 1981.
- ❖ To inaugurate the day, the United Nations Peace Bell is rung at UN Headquarters (in New York City).
- ❖ United Nations has declared "Climate Action for Peace" as a theme for International Day of Peace-2019.
- ❖ This year's celebrations are comparatively unique, as the United Nation's this year's theme is completely unrelated to war, conflict, or peace.



World Rose Day – September 22

- ❖ World Rose Day is observed in the memory of 12-year-old Melinda Rose from Canada who was diagnosed with Askin's Tumour, a rare form of blood cancer.
- ❖ On World Rose Day, hand-made roses, cards and gifts are offered to cancer patients.
- ❖ Rose, a symbol of love, tenderness and concern, is offered to cancer patients to give them strength as they face the cancer battle.
- ❖ World Cancer Day is observed on February 4.





International Day of Sign Languages – September 23

- ❖ International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) is celebrated annually across the world on 23 September every year along with International Week of the Deaf.
- ❖ The first International Day of Sign languages was celebrated by United Nations in 2018 under the theme “With Sign Language, everyone is Included!”.
- ❖ The choice of 23 September is the same date that the World Federation of the Deaf was established in 1951.
- ❖ International Week of the Deaf (IWDeaf) is celebrated annually across the world during the last full week of September since 2009.
- ❖ The over-arching theme of IDSL 2019 is “Sign Language Rights for All!”.
- ❖ IDSL corresponds with International Week of the Deaf, and each day of the week has a sub-theme as follows:

Day	Theme
Monday, 23 September	Sign Language Rights for All!
Tuesday, 24 September	Sign Language Rights for All Children
Wednesday, 25 September	Sign Language Rights for Deaf Senior Citizens
Thursday, 26 September	Sign Language Rights for Deaf Blind People and Deaf People with Disabilities
Friday, 27 September	Sign Language Rights for Deaf Women
Saturday, 28 September	Sign Language Rights for Deaf LGBTIQ+
Sunday, 29 September	Sign Language Rights for Deaf Refugees

World Pharmacist Day 2019 – September 25

- ❖ World Pharmacist Day is celebrated on 25 September every year to promote and advocate the role of the pharmacist in improving health all over the world.
- ❖ It was in the year 2009, when the day was formulated by the FIP Council in Istanbul, Turkey.
- ❖ The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is the global body representing over 4 million pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists.
- ❖ The theme for this year’s World Pharmacists Day is “Safe and effective medicines for all”.



International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons – September 26

- ❖ The International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (INTEN) is observed every year on September 26.
- ❖ A UN General Assembly resolution passed in 2013 earmarked September 26 as INTEN day.
- ❖ The day is aimed at enhancing public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination.

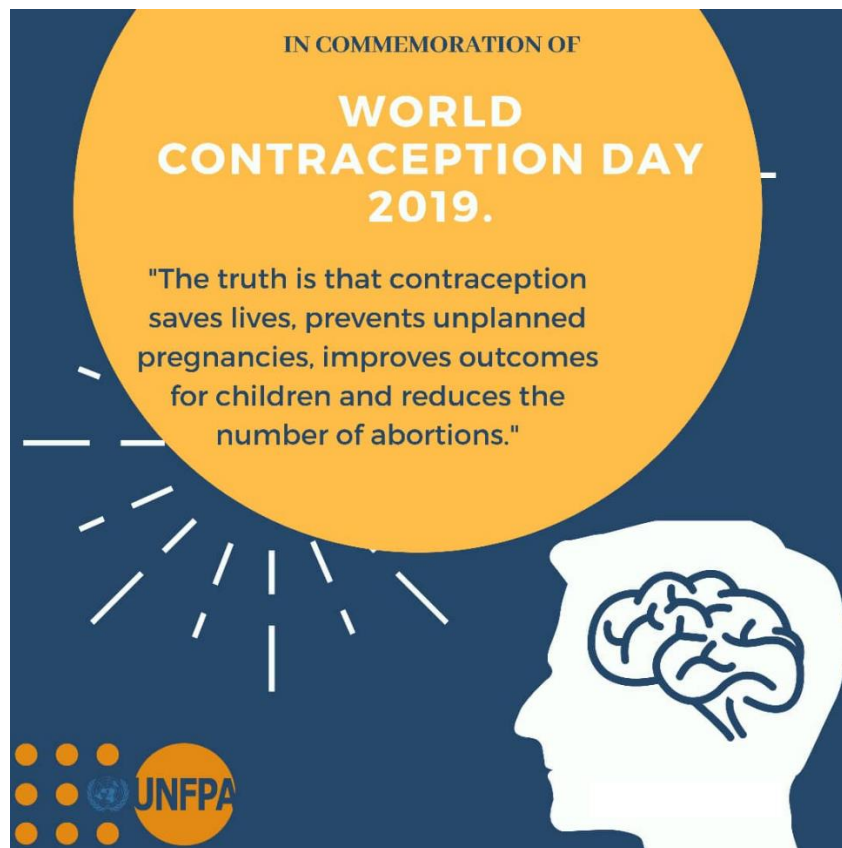
World Maritime Day – September 26

- ❖ World Maritime Day is observed every year on the last Thursday of September.
- ❖ Celebrations are held to focus attention on the importance of shipping safety, maritime security and the marine environment
- ❖ It recognises contribution of international maritime industry towards the economy of the world, especially shipping.
- ❖ It was first observed in 1978 to mark the 20th anniversary of the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) Convention.
- ❖ Kitack Lim is the current Secretary General of IMO.
- ❖ The 2019 World Maritime Day theme for the year is "Empowering Women in the Maritime Community".



World Contraception Day – September 26

- ❖ World Contraception Day takes place on September 26th every year.
- ❖ The day's mission is to improve awareness of all contraceptive methods available and enable young people to make informed choices on their sexual and reproductive health.
- ❖ The day was founded in 2007.





World Environmental Health Day – September 26

- ❖ The World Environmental Health Day is celebrated on 26 September annually and coordinated by the International Federation of Environmental Health.
- ❖ The theme of celebration for 2019 is “Climate change challenges, time for global Environmental Health to act in unison”.
- ❖ The theme calls for Environmental Health Practitioners to protect communities against the challenges of climate variability at a grassroots level.

World Tourism Day – September 27

- ❖ Since 1980, the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has celebrated World Tourism Day on September 27.
- ❖ On September 27, 1970 statutes of UNWTO were adopted.
- ❖ The purpose of this day is to raise awareness on the role of tourism within the international community and to demonstrate how it affects social, cultural, political and economic values worldwide.
- ❖ The theme of celebration for the year 2019 is "Tourism, A Key Sector in the World".

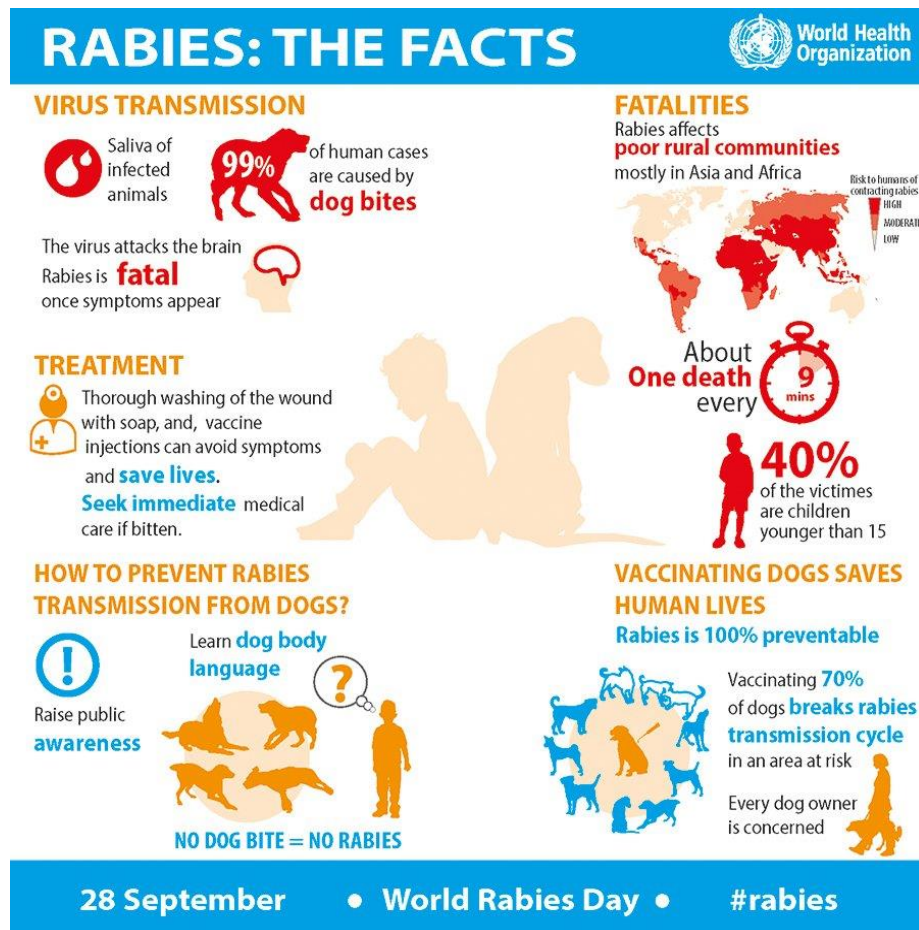
2019 Host Nation

- ❖ Since 1997, UNWTO designates a specific country has host of the celebrations.
- ❖ In 2019, India is the World Tourism Day host and it is observed in India under the theme “Tourism and Jobs: A better future for all”.



World Rabies Day – September 28

- ❖ World Rabies Day is an international awareness campaign coordinated by the USA's Global Alliance for Rabies Control on September 28th of every.
- ❖ It is an UN observance day and September 28th commemorates the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur.
- ❖ Pasteur developed the first rabies vaccine.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the impact of rabies on humans and animals, provide information and advice on how to prevent the disease.



International Day for Universal Access to Information - September 28

- ❖ The International Day for the Universal Access to Information is designated by the UNESCO General Conference to be held on 28 September.
- ❖ The day was inaugurated in November 2015 and was first held on 28 September 2016.

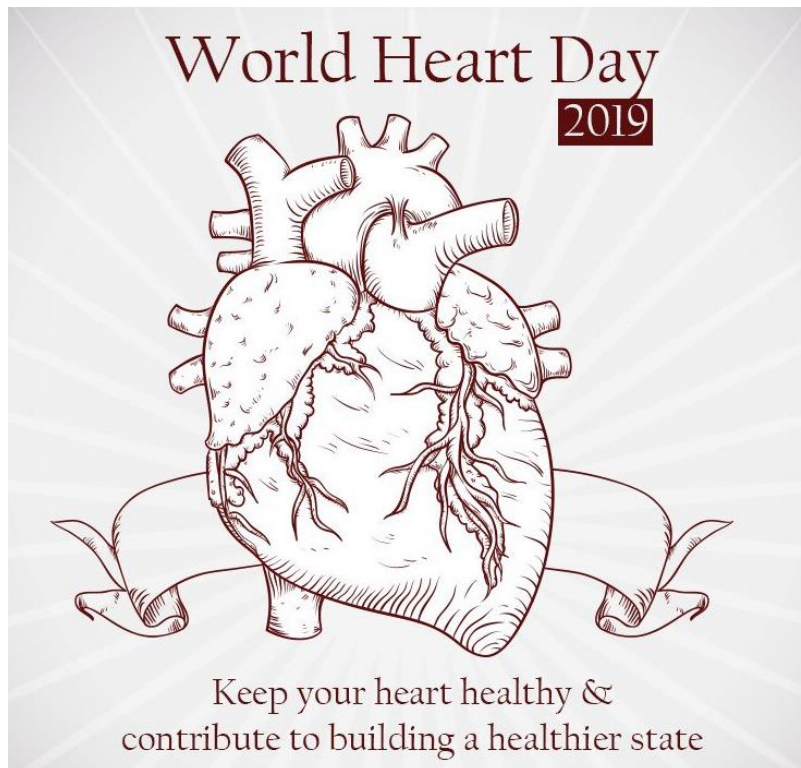


- ❖ The theme for 2019 is “Access to Information: Leaving no one behind”.



World Heart day – September 29

- ❖ World Heart Day observance takes place on 29th September every year.
- ❖ It is observed since 2000.
- ❖ It is the is the World Heart Federation’s biggest platform for raising awareness about cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke.





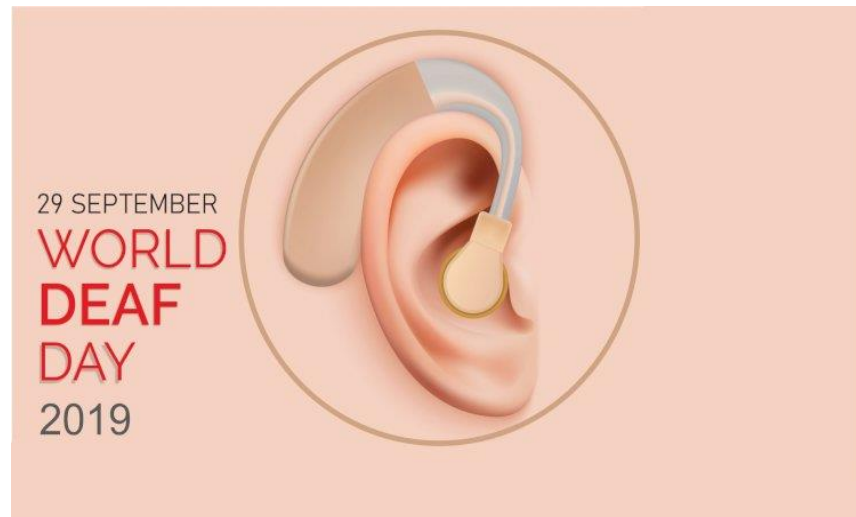
World Rivers Day – September 22

- ❖ World Rivers Day is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of September.
- ❖ It is a day to celebrate world's waterways.
- ❖ This year, World Rivers Day was observed on September 21.
- ❖ The theme of 2019 is "Day of Action for Rivers".
- ❖ The day was first celebrated in 2005.
- ❖ In 2005, the United Nations launched the "Water for Life Decade" for a greater awareness of the need to take care for our water resources.



World Deaf Day – September 29

- ❖ World Deaf Day (WDD) which is usually observed every year on the last Sunday in the month of September.
- ❖ This year it was observed on September 29.
- ❖ It aims to create awareness about the contributions of deaf people to society.
- ❖ The day was initiated by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) headquartered in Helsinki, Finland.



International Translation Day - September 30

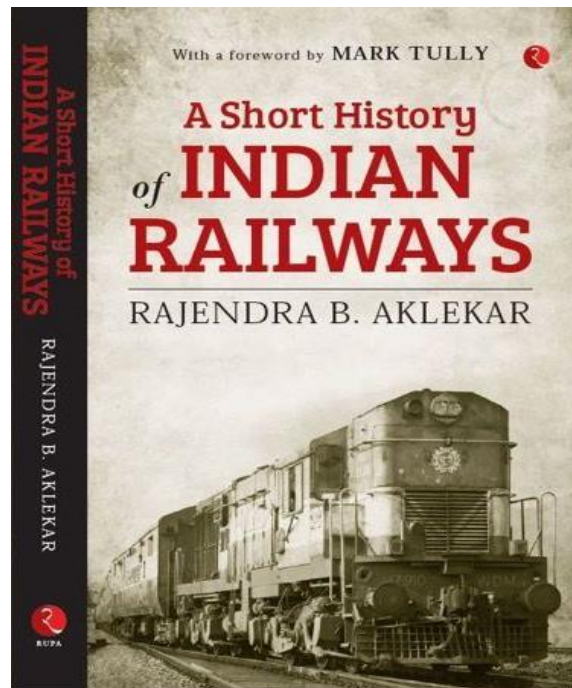
- ❖ International Translation Day is celebrated every year on 30 September.
- ❖ It celebrates the feast of St. Jerome, the Bible translator who is considered the patron saint of translators.
- ❖ On May 24, 2017, The United Nations General Assembly has passed a resolution as declaring September 30 as International Translation Day.



MISCELLANEOUS

A Short History of Indian Railways

- ❖ A new book on the history of Indian Railways talks about the journey of the Indian Railways from 1830s to the new high-speed Train 18.
- ❖ The book, "A Short History of Indian Railways", has been penned by veteran journalist and author Rajendra B Aklekar.
- ❖ The book's foreword has been written by eminent journalist Mark Tully.



Global Happiness Study

- ❖ India ranked ninth on happiness index among 28 global markets.
- ❖ The Global Happiness Study surveyed over 1000 individuals in each of the 28 countries.
- ❖ Over 77% Indian respondents reported that they were happy.
- ❖ But there has been a 6% drop from 83% in 2018 to 77 per cent in 2019.
- ❖ The ranking is as follows
 1. Australia and Canada
 2. China
 3. Great Britain



4. France
5. USA
6. Saudi Arabia
7. Germany
8. India

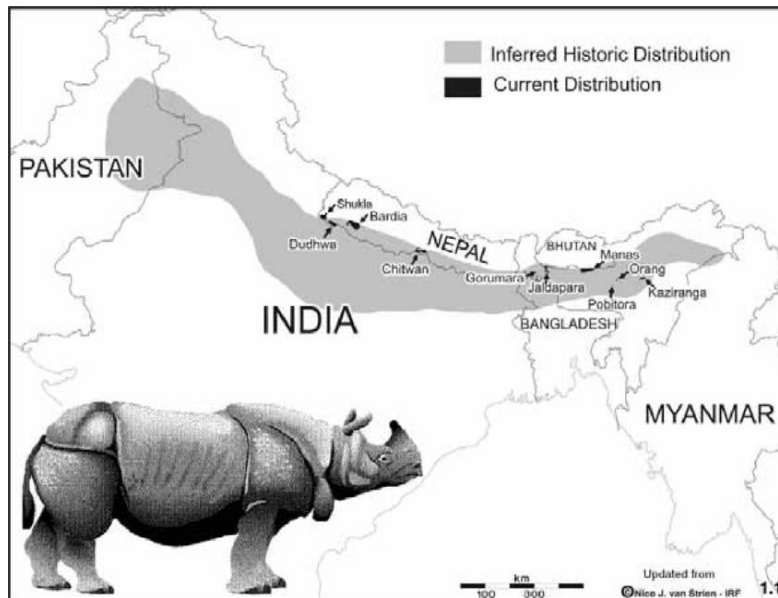
❖ Russia, Spain and Argentina were placed at the bottom of the list.

India's Highest Sky Cycling Track

- ❖ The highest sky cycling track of the country has been built at an altitude of 9,000 feet at Gulaba, a tourist destination at Manali.
- ❖ The length of this track is 350 meters. It will be duly opened to the general public in the first week of October.
- ❖ This track has been made by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Mountaineering Sports Institute under the supervision of Colonel Neeraj Rana.
- ❖ The sky cycling track will strengthen the government revenue and tourists will also get a chance to participate in adventure activities.

Rohit4Rhinos campaign

- ❖ India vice-captain Rohit Sharma is launching Rohit4Rhinos campaign, in partnership with WWF India and Animal Planet.
- ❖ It aims to help build awareness for the need to conserve the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros or the Indian Rhino.
- ❖ In a campaign launching on Animal Planet to commemorate World Rhino Day on September 22.
- ❖ The Indian rhinoceros faces several threats, including poaching, habitat loss and mass mortality from in-breeding and disease.
- ❖ It only survived in the Terai grasslands of southern Nepal, northern Uttar Pradesh, northern Bihar, northern West Bengal, and in the Brahmaputra Valley of Assam.



76th Venice International Film Festival

- ❖ 76th Venice International Film Festival was held at in Venice Italy.
- ❖ The award was founded in 1932 and it is world's oldest film festival.
- ❖ Malayalam film "Chola" directed by Sanal Kumar Sasidharan also competed in the film festival as part of the 'Orizzonti' (Horizons) competition category.
- ❖ Golden Lion Award for Best Film was given awarded to 'Joker' directed by Todd Phillips.

World's Top 10 IB Schools

- ❖ The Dhirubhai Ambani International School (DAIS) becomes the only Indian school to be placed among the Top 10 International Baccalaureate (IB) schools in the world.
- ❖ The ranking has been given according to an assessment by Education Advisers, the UK-based independent education consultants.
- ❖ It is also the only Indian International Baccalaureate (IB) school featured in the list.
- ❖ The list is topped by Anglo Chinese of Singapore followed by Godolphin & Latymer of UK and St Joseph's Institution of Singapore at 2nd and 3rd position.



IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List

- ❖ IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List has been released.
- ❖ Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani has topped the list of richest Indians for the eighth consecutive year, with a net worth of rupees 3,80,700 crore
- ❖ London-based SP Hinduja & family, with assets worth 1,86,500 crore has retained the second rank
- ❖ It is followed by Wipro founder Azim Premji at the third place with a wealth of 1,17,100 crore.

Cities

- ❖ With 246 individuals or 26 per cent of the list Mumbai is topmost preferred home of entrepreneurs.
- ❖ It is followed by Delhi (175) and Bengaluru (77).

